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Daily Report
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Arab-Israeli Talks

Jordanian, Israeli Experts Meet on Crossing Points

JN0208143594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Report by Randah Habib from Amman]

[Text] Jordanian and Israeli experts met in Wadi al-'Arabah today to establish a crossing point between al-'Aqabah and Elat on the Red Sea.

The Washington Declaration, signed by King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on 25 July, provided for setting up one border crossing in the south between al-'Aqabah and Elat for the passage of third country nationals and a yet to be designated site in the north.

Jordan is to build a two-to-three km long stretch of road on its side of the border.

The experts will also start the groundwork for meetings of the border and security committee due to convene the day after tomorrow, Thursday [4 August] in Wadi al-'Arabah. They will also set the stage for bilateral talks at the level of chief delegates Fayiz al- Tarawinah and Elyaqim Rubinstein slated for 8 August in the vicinity of the Potash plant south of the Dead Sea.

On another front, the prosecutor general is questioning three Islamic deputies, 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant, 'Abd-al-'Aziz Jabr, and Muhammad al-Hajj, in connection with unseemly references and incitement to opposition to the peace process in their mosque speeches. Their statements are seen as breaches of the guidance law and the political party law, which prohibit the use of such forums for the incitement and spreading of political ideas.

It is to be recalled that the peace process oppositionists control 20 of the 80 seats of Jordan's House of Representatives.

An authoritative source told our radio station that the three deputies do not enjoy parliamentary immunity while the House is in recess. The mosque's forum, he noted, belongs to the government of the land [waliyy al-amr] and whoever uses the mosque pulpit to foment sedition is in breach of the Islamic sharia.

Crown Prince Hasan yesterday convened a session with Islamic deputies opposed to the peace process, who emphasized the constructive and constitutional nature of their opposition, which they described as being directed against the government rather than the regime.

Pave Way for 8 Aug Talks

JN0208164394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] In response to a question by the Jordanian News Agency, PETRA-JNA, on the meetings between Jordanian and Israeli experts in Wadi al-'Arabah today and tomorrow, a responsible source at the Foreign Ministry said that these bilateral meetings are intended to pave the way for the meetings scheduled for 8 August. He said that during these meetings, a number of bilateral issues will be discussed such as a temporary crossing point for third party tourists as stipulated in the Washington Declaration, noting that this issue is now being explored in a principled manner.

Negotiations on Early Transfer of Power Resume

NC0208162194 Cairo MENA in English 1400 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, August 2 (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli talks resumed here today to discuss the early transfer of power to the Palestinian National Authority in self-rule areas.

The agenda includes the early transfer of authority for the tourism and social affairs sectors.

During talks held last week, the two sides agreed on the early transfer of authority in the sectors of education and health.

The agreements on these two sectors will be sanctioned during this round of talks.

Meetings Held on PLO-Israel Economic Accord

TA0208172494 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 1042 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Statement issued by the Finance Ministry spokesman]

[Text] At a meeting that took place yesterday (Monday), 1 Aug 94, at the Notre Dame hotel in Jerusalem, teams of negotiators met to discuss the implementation of the economic accord between Israel and the Palestinians. The meeting followed an earlier meeting—held last week in Jericho—between Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Abu-'Ala [Ahmad Quray'], who is responsible for the Palestinian economy.

At the start of the meeting, David Brodet—acting head of the Israeli delegation—met privately with Dr. Amin Haddad, acting head of the Palestinian team.

Four sub-committees—on trade, labor, taxation and agriculture—convened toward implementing the economic agreement.

At the start of the discussions, Brodet said that these teams would meet often and continuously, in order to ensure the proper execution of the agreement. Brodet added that these meetings would become routine.

After the three hour session, it was reported that the atmosphere at the discussions had been positive and productive. Further, it was said that some matters would be investigated by the proper economic authorities—in the wake of questions raised by the Palestinians.

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The teams dealing with trade issues discussed the implementation of procedures governing the transfer of goods, and the granting of licenses—in accordance with the principles laid out in the Paris agreement.

The taxation delegations also worked on economic matters connected with the implementation of the economic accord, while seeking to improve existing procedures along the lines of the examples presented by the teams.

The agriculture sub-committee discussed various issues relating to the import of seeds, and to the movement of produce into Israel. The labor teams continued their discussions on topics associated with the passage of laborers.

The discussions are to continue next week; the exact place, time, and agenda will be announced later. Subjects scheduled for discussion next week involve insurance, trade and taxation issues.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 26 Jul 94

NC0208111194

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 26 July issue of Cairo AL-SHA'B summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Furor Over Veil Ban
2. Causes of Terrorism; Discussion Continued
3. Artists Urged To Promote Muslim Causes
4. Muslim Brotherhood's Mashhur Sees Light After Darkness

FUROR OVER VEIL BAN

In a 2,000-word article on page 5, "The Education Minister... and Veiled Students: Is it a Battle or Sedition?," Dr. Mahmud Himayah, secretary general of the Ulema Assembly and director of the Call to the Faith Department at Asyut's College of Religious Disciplines, reproaches Education Minister Husayn Kamil Baha-'al-Din for banning the female headscarf among schoolgirls and imposing a uniform that the writer considers immodest. He warns the minister that his decision is bound to cause sedition, "the extent of which only God can know."

Writing on the same issue, Khalid al-Za'farani issues a "Warning Cry Before Everyone Regrets," a 500-word article on page 7. The Labor Party Political Bureau member begins by calling the education minister's decision to unify school dress for female students an "ignorant, tyrannical decision" that contradicts "God's shari'ah."

Other items dealing with this issue include two reports on page 7. A 100-word report by Muhammad Bishari says that many parents in Qina have declared that they "will not force our daughters to wear the uniform imposed by the education minister; it contravenes Islamic shari'ah and the customs and traditions of Upper Egypt that require young women to be modest."

A 300-word report by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad refers to "sharp arguments" between parents and education officials in al-Jizah over the same issue.

Muhammad's report adds: "Several al-Azhar ulema who are members of the Ulema Assembly of which Shaykh Dr. Mahmud Himayah is secretary general are conducting intensive consultations with some university professors, Muslim ulema, lawyers, teachers, and public personalities to form a national front to adopt all possible legal measures to stop the implementation of the education minister's decision banning the veil."

On page 1 a 250-word unattributed report begins: "The Administrative Court will set a date next week to consider the appeal submitted by 10 prominent lawyers acting for 50 parents—also socially prominent—against the education minister's decision to ban the veil in schools."

The report says the lawsuit also seeks 1 million pounds in compensation for each of the 50 petitioning parents.

CAUSES OF TERRORISM; DISCUSSION CONTINUED

Dr. 'Abd-al-Fattah al-Fawi, professor of philosophy at Cairo University's Dar al-'Ulum College, continues on page 5 "the second and final part of" a discussion of the causes of terrorism, the first part of which was published by the paper on 19 July 1994. The first part, tackling the religious causes of terrorism, appeared in nc2307163394, representing take 2 of 2, nc2307155894 and add, Nicosia's 85th political Islam review. The discussion appeared under the heading: "Article Analyzes Terrorism Causes, Sources."

In the 1,000-word concluding part of the discussion, al-Fawi tackles the political and social circumstances surrounding the current incidence of terrorism. On the political side, he says the ruling regime is seen as "having come to power illegally and continuing to rule illegally." The writer notes that those who oppose the regime declare that if they come to power they will implement what they advocate. But he warns that theory is one thing and practice another.

Socially, he says that inequalities of opportunity, discrepancies in pay, rewards, and penalties cause resentment and violence.

He advises that "violence is not the ideal way—indeed it is not the way at all—to achieve virtue and reform."

He continues: "Killing and acts of violence only lead to further destruction and bloodshed. The shortest and safest method to eliminating terrorism is to eliminate its causes."

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ARTISTS URGED TO PROMOTE MUSLIM CAUSES

Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, in his 300-word "This is Our Religion" column on page 12, berates Arab moviemakers for not devoting their art to Islamic causes and making movies about the plight of Muslim minorities in non-Muslim countries. He reminds them of movies made abroad about the Jews' destruction by the Nazis: "When the Jews were tormented in Hitler's Germany, what happened to them was multiplied thousands of times on screen until the world believed that millions of them had been exterminated."

He says Muslim artists sing only about love and write only about sex but neglect important issues: "Why should singing be merely dalliance? Is literature limited to the sexual instinct? Why do we put on film everything except our defeats, victories, doctrinal causes and others' attempts to eradicate faith and virtuous endeavor?"

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD'S MASHHUR SEES LIGHT AFTER DARKNESS

Muslim Brotherhood Deputy General Guide Mustafa Mashhur in a 2,000-word article on page 5 gives an assessment of the Islamic nation's condition, which as the title describes it "Is Passing Through a Very Dark Period... But."

He begins by outlining the "enemies'" attempts to weaken Islamic faith by "disseminating corruption, immorality, and bizarre anti-Islam ideas" and by ascribing the Islamic countries' backwardness to their commitment to Islamic values.

The Muslim Brotherhood official criticizes the attempt to separate the state from religion and Islam from politics. He deplores attacks on Islamic teachings pertaining to women, including the wearing of the veil and male-female segregation. He criticizes the education minister's campaign against female students wearing the veil to school. He calls the minister's decision to impose a secular uniform on them and the supportive articles written by journalists who back him "waves of darkness seeking to hide the light of Islam."

He also refers to the "wave of intense darkness" planned for September 1994 with the convening of "this population conference that permits abortion, sexual freedom, and other taboos [refers to the UN International Conference on Population and Development]."

He says that Islam's enemies, while professing a desire to spread democracy worldwide, have encouraged military coups d'etat in Islamic countries, which established despotic governments and filled detention camps with their opponents. He adds that a plan was also implemented to keep Muslim countries debt-ridden and poor.

Mashhur cites the Palestinian issue, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kashmir, and other issues involving Muslims as examples of the injustice visited on the Muslims but declares that he sees a "glimmer of light" illustrated by the "growing Islamic awakening in the Muslim world and the spirit of sacrifice, self-immolation, and optimism among Muslims in connection with their causes."

He concludes that these are "good signs and a prelude to God's victory."

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 26 Jul

NC0108192094

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 26 July issue of Cairo 'AQIDATI summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

Contents:

1. Minister Clarifies Decision on Veil
2. Board Chairman Defends Education, Awqaf Ministers
3. Al-Azhar Criticizes Culture Ministry
4. Mufti Says Face-Covering Not Mentioned in Koran
5. Government Promises To Back Mosques
6. Ulema's Conference Ignores Preachers' Problems
7. Al-Ghazali Says Establishing Religion Does Not Mean Seizing Power
8. Fame-Seeking Writers Attack Islam
9. Head of Islamic Youth Forum Interviewed

MINISTER CLARIFIES DECISION ON VEIL

A 100-word report by Yusuf 'Izz-al-Din on page 1 notes Education Minister Baha'-al-Din's denial of reports that he has banned the veil in schools.

BOARD CHAIRMAN DEFENDS EDUCATION; AWQAF MINISTERS

An approximately 600-word column by 'AQIDATI Board Chairman Samir Rajab notes that "extremists and terrorists" and those standing behind them will never succeed in dissuading people who fight for a cause from standing up for what they believe in. In this context, Rajab defends Education Minister Husayn Baha'-al-Din for standing up courageously to extremists at schools, colleges, and educational institutes and for drawing "a dividing line" between religiousness and fanaticism. Rajab adds: "While encouraging the teaching of religion in schools, he placed aside those who for long years have sought to appoint themselves custodians of Islam and the Muslims, taking advantage of the positions they hold." As a result, he adds, the minister has been the subject of "cheap extortion" by these same people, whom he does not name, but the minister has not given up and will not give up.

In another part of the column, Rajab notes that the same applies to Awqaf Minister Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, who has opted to engage the "impostors of religion," with the help of the convoys of ulema, on their home turf. He adds: "Naturally, these corrupt and misguided few have found in the minister an overwhelming danger that threatens their domination and curbs their unlawful

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influence on people, so they started propagating fabricated stories about him." Again, Rajab does not name these people or the nature of the dispute.

AL-AZHAR CRITICIZES CULTURE MINISTRY

An unattributed report on page 1 says: "A responsible source in al-Azhar has affirmed that the Ministry of Culture is deliberately ignoring the reports compiled by the Research and Publishing Department at the Islamic Research Academy on the books published by the General Book Authority, which al-Azhar wants confiscated. The source pointed out that al-Azhar is surprised to find that the Culture Ministry is releasing second editions of books that al-Azhar demands be confiscated, as if the ministry is challenging al-Azhar. The source added: Al-Azhar has prepared several reports on the so- called enlightenment books and has called for banning some of them, such as the (al-Ijtihad) [interpretation] by Husayn Ahmad Amin, which vigorously defames Islam. Al-Azhar also has called for not publishing the book (Islam and the Origins of Regime), against which a verdict was passed by al-Azhar and the ulema; and the book (The New Woman) by Qasim Amin. The source went on to say that most private publishing houses in Egypt submit copies of the books they want to publish to the Islamic Research Academy for endorsement before publishing them, while the General Book Authority is publishing books that attack Islam without obtaining al-Azhar approval."

MUFTI SAYS FACE-COVERING NOT MENTIONED IN KORAN

An approximately 600-word report by Mahmud 'Ushb on pages 1 and 8 reviews answers by ulema to religious questions and queries by Muslims. A question put to Mufti of the Republic Shaykh Sayyid Tantawi wonders if a Muslim woman has to cover her face and palms. After quoting two verses from the Koran, Shaykh Tantawi says that according to these verses a Muslim woman is required by religion to "cover her entire body," except for the face and the palms. Furthermore, he adds, the dress a woman wears "must not be transparent, tight, descriptive of her body, or striking to the attention of others." Shaykh Tantawi adds: "A woman has no obligation to cover her face or palms with a veil or gloves because there is no explicit reference in the Koran or the prophet's tradition that obliges the covering of the face or the palms." He notes that in Prophet Muhammad's time some women used to cover their faces and palms out of "extreme shyness" or as a "habit," but not in fulfillment of a religious obligation.

GOVERNMENT PROMISES TO BACK MOSQUES

A 200-word report by Muhammad al-Abnudi on page 2 reports that Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi has reiterated the government's commitment to provide full support for mosques and religious institutions so that they can perform their duty. Sidqi's remarks came in a meeting with Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahjub, who met the prime minister on 24 July to brief him on the results of the Muslim ulema's conference. According to the minister, the prime minister promised to set up a committee to implement the recommendations of the conference.

ULEMA'S CONFERENCE IGNORES PREACHERS' PROBLEMS

An approximately 1,300-word report by Muhammad al-Abnudi on page 3 notes that the meetings of the first ulema's conference have failed to address the need to improve preachers' financial and moral conditions. Al-Abnudi adds that the recommendations of the conference, which was attended by more than 1,500 ulema, did not make any reference to the ulema conditions. The writer notes that out of 'AQIDATI's belief that it is a mouthpiece for Islamic call and a pulpit for defending the ulema's cause, the paper decided to explore the views of some of the participants in the conference on the matter. One of the participants, Shaykh Shukri Gharib, notes the ulema would have liked the officials to listen to their problems so that they could help find immediate solutions. Another preacher, Shaykh Faraj 'Umar, says the conference failed to discuss the need to provide the ulema with reference books that help them confront contemporary ideologies, although it arranged for some meetings with some thinkers and officials, which was good but not enough. For his part, Shaykh Muhmmad 'Id wanted the conference to examine the preachers' conditions and provide them with better housing and transportation facilities so that they could do their job properly.

Columnist Basyuni al-Halawani, in an approximately 600-word column on page 6, notes that statements by preachers and ulema taking part in the recent conference to a daily newspaper were saddening. In their statements they complained that their salaries were too modest to help them face life's requirements. Al-Halawani notes that the preachers' remarks conflict with the statements of the minister of Awqaf, who stresses in all his news conferences that the preachers' salaries have increased in recent years. Al-Halawani calls for expanded meetings with the preachers to learn about their problems and find solutions to them.

AL-GHAZALI SAYS ESTABLISHING RELIGION DOES NOT MEAN SEIZING POWER

Well-known Islamic Preacher Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, in an approximately 600-word article on page 6, notes that he closely follows current Islamic activity out of his love for the religion that he wants to prevail and out of fear because he knows that its enemies are shrewd, rich, and strong people who want to finish it off. He notes that defenders of the religion do not lack enthusiasm or sincerity, but rather experience and awareness. They believe that the Muslims' conditions today are the result of temporary ills that can be eliminated in days or at most years and that all the youths need to do is fight and break the barriers standing in their ways and then

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luck will smile on them. He points out that this "hurriedness" has resulted in many troubles for and heavy losses to the Islamic call. He calls instead for a comprehensive study to examine the reasons for our "civilian and military retreat." Al- Ghazali adds: "Establishing God's religion is one thing and the mere seizure of power by this or that way is another. Establishing God's religion means first and foremost to initiate a sound relationship between man and his Lord. It also means contributing to building a universal society that promotes virtue, suppresses vice, respects rights, and adores God Almighty." Concluding, Shaykh al-Ghazali says: "The mujahidin struggling for the sake of God experience many defeats either because of their lack of experience or their extreme poverty in their knowledge about God's book and the tradition of his prophet."

FAME-SEEKING WRITERS ATTACK ISLAM

An approximately 1,500-word reportage by Jamal Salim on page 10 notes that criticizing Islam nowadays has become a way to seek fame and glory both at home and abroad. He notes that once someone writes a book against the Koran or the prophet news agencies hasten to report it and within days the writer becomes a great innovator and a renowned writer that deserves the highest literary awards. He cites as an example Bangladeshi writer Nasrin, who criticized the Holy Koran, which earned her the support of "suspicious literary organizations" and a message of support from Salman Rushdie. He notes that there is a long list of local writers who defame Islam under the name of innovation or creativity. To define the limits of creativity and innovation, Salim interviews some scholars on the matter. Dr. Ramadan 'Abd-al-Tawwab, former dean of the College of Arts at 'Ayn Shams University, defines creative works as mature and sincere works that influence society and respect its laws and ethics. Dr. Muhammad Ra'fat 'Uthman, head of the Shari'ah College in Tanta, says that Islam is not against creativity so long as it abides by and promotes virtue.

HEAD OF ISLAMIC YOUTH FORUM INTERVIEWED

Dr. Mani' al-Jihani, head of the Riyadh-based International Forum for Islamic Youth, is interviewed by Jamal Salim on page 20. In the approximately 1,200-word interview, al-Jihani notes that his forum was established in 1972 to supervise youth activity throughout the world, particularly where Muslim minorities live. The activity includes religious orientation, training of preachers, supply of books to Muslim minorities, and introduction of Islam to non- Muslims. He notes that his forum gives particular attention to activity in the Central Asian Muslim republics and Africa. He points out that after leaving the Islamic states, the colonialists prepared a versatile and long-term plan for "cultural invasion" of these states. It includes, among other things, encouraging Westernized parties that call for women's liberation, obscenity, and separation of church and state. To counter this offensive, he calls on the Muslim governments and people to set up strong media organs that promote Islamic ethics and advance the "Islamic substitute" to the Western culture.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 29 July 94

NC0308094594

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 29 July issue of Cairo AL-SHA'B summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Al-Azhar Teachers Angry Over Lesser Pay Rise
2. Arab Interior, Information Ministers Reject Ban on Veils
3. Islamic Preacher Condemns ICPD, Ban on Veils
4. Islamic Scholars Surveyed on Veil Ban
5. Writer Analyzes Arab Peace Deals With Israel
6. Writer Assesses National Dialogue, Goals

AL-AZHAR TEACHERS ANGRY OVER LESSER PAY RISE

A 400-word report on pages 1 and 7 of the 29 July edition of AL- SHA'B notes that al-Azhar teachers will go on strike as of tomorrow due to differences with the government over pay raises for marking public examination papers. After the dispute was reportedly resolved through negotiations with the prime minister, the government went back on its promise and gave the teachers a smaller pay raise than agreed upon, which angered them immensely.

ARAB INTERIOR, INFORMATION MINISTERS REJECT BAN ON VEILS

On page 1 and 7 AL-SHA'B also publishes a 200-word report by Muhammad al-Quddus, saying that the Arab interior and information ministers oppose the Egyptian education minister's decision to ban veils in schools. "They consider this decision a cause for the spread of violence and extremism," al-Quddus reports. He says that last year the Arab Media Standing Committee of the Arab League issued this statement, and the Arab Interior Ministers' Council said the same at its meeting in Tunis in April. The report concludes that "the minister has no choice but to retract his decision."

ISLAMIC PREACHER CONDEMNS ICPD, BAN ON VEILS

Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid, in a 100-word report on pages 1 and 7, says that Islamic preacher and thinker, Dr. Yusuf al-Qirdawi, attacked the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], which is being organized by Egypt for mid-September 1994. Al- Qirdawi described the conference as "a questionable conference that calls for sanctioning vice," and asked the ulema to vehemently oppose it. Al-Qirdawi also condemned the education minister's decision to ban veils in school. He stressed that "the education minister must

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retract this decision." He made these statements at a seminar attended by Islamic preachers at the World Institute for Islamic Thought.

ISLAMIC SCHOLARS SURVEYED ON VEIL BAN

Page 3 features a survey by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad of the opinions of various Islamic scholars and thinkers regarding the education minister's decision to ban women from wearing veils at school. Most of the Islamic figures surveyed condemn this decision, ask the parents or guardians of the girls to make their daughters wear veils to protest the decision, and demand that the education minister retract his decision immediately. The introductory paragraph to the survey gives background information on how the decision was made and the reaction it has drawn among the various sectors of society. Islamic Preacher Shaykh Ahmad al-Mahallawi says: "Parents and guardians of students should force their daughters to wear the legal Islamic attire without having to ask his excellency's permission to do so, even if this leads to the dismissal of all female students." Islamic writer Fahmi Huwaydi said that the decision "is part of a general policy that confronts all signs of religiousness among our people." He maintained that such a decision not only clashes with an entire Islamic group, "but with the strong religious feelings among our people." Huwaydi noted that the decision has a deeper significance than just the veil, since bearded men are not allowed into officers' clubs and religious teachers are not given jobs at government schools. The survey concludes with the opinion of Dr. Muhammad al-Masir, professor at al-Azhar University, who said that this decision contradicts the teachings of the Koran and therefore is null and void.

WRITER ANALYZES ARAB PEACE DEALS WITH ISRAEL

AL-SHA'B carries on page 5 a 3,500-word article by 'Adil Husayn in which he discusses the peace agreements with Israel, starting with the Camp David Accord with Egypt, the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles in Washington, and the Jordanian-Israeli Washington Declaration. He warns that if the Israelis' scheme is allowed to proceed according to plan, peace with Syria will be in the not too distant future. On Egypt's role, he writes: "Some people believe Egypt's president—not necessarily President Mubarak—played a great role in these public festivals," thus deserving to be invited to the signing ceremonies. He explains: "Victorious leaders invite to the capital of their empire the scattered and defeated parties who have become their prisoners. Successively, one after the other, each of these parties arrive there, throw down their arms, and ask for pardon." He then says that Egypt is finished. "Those who are misguided must understand that Egypt's place is among the defeated and vanquished," he writes.

Husayn then reviews how the United States and Israel brought each party in the Middle East to heel. They first worked on Egypt through al-Sadat, who traveled to Jerusalem and then Camp David. Thirteen years later, "the Government of Egypt's role consisted of convincing the other sides to accept direct negotiations with the Zionists, and take the mere crumbs offered them." Thus, Egypt has weakened its own importance and that of the Arabs. Husayn then details the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the current fate of the Palestinians after the Gaza-Jericho First agreement. He explains that after having isolated each Arab party and struck peace deals unilaterally, the Israelis now want the economic compensation that comes with deals with the Jordanians. "But realizing this objective," he explains, "requires a long process of taming the Palestinian people. For this purpose, economic pressure is being used," as are attempts to create problems between the Jordanians and the Israelis. Husayn then details the Jordanian-Israeli Agreement, which he believes will follow the same course as the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Husayn then discusses Israeli peace advances to Syria, for which he believes the stage is already set now that Jordan, the Palestinians, and the Egyptians have already fallen. He writes: "I said that besieging and weakening Syria requires placing the Palestinians and Jordan under control first and then moving to isolate Lebanon from Syria. This plot is also linked to expanding and diversifying relations with Arab countries and punishing those who refuse to be appeased." He explains that attempts at isolating Lebanon are apparent in the repeated Israeli attacks on south Lebanon.

Syria is also weakened by the collapse of its former ally, the Soviet Union, Husayn says. He goes on to discuss the greater Israel concept which Israel still pursuing. He notes that part of the design was to eliminate Egypt as an important player in the arena, and they have succeeded in doing this "in view of the incompetent and cowardly regime." He then links the IMF's demands on Egypt to the developments in the rest of the region, all of which are part and parcel of the economic pressure put on the countries in the region to subdue them and place them under Israel's control. He says in conclusion that the solution to the current crisis is Islam. "It is the only solution; there is no other," he says. He expresses his belief that the light of hope is dawning in Sudan. Hope is certainly growing these days and is not waiting for the vague and distant future.

WRITER ASSESSES NATIONAL DIALOGUE, GOALS

'Abd-al-Hakim Diyab, identified as the chief editor of AKHBAR AL-'ARAB magazine, writes in a 1,500-word article published on page 9 about the national dialogue. He believes that the national dialogue was stillborn for two reasons. The first is that "political forces need to be represented correctly," and the silent majority of the Egyptian people, who do not belong to any party or group, were not represented. Even the parties were not all represented fairly, he maintains. He warns that the shooting war that some groups practiced may come back

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despite the current lull. The second reason is that the "Zionist lobby" chaired this dialogue, meaning the group that is most closely affiliated with the Zionist enemy rather than the people. There was also a dire need for constitutional reform, which was not even addressed during the dialogue. He believes that this dialogue was orchestrated "because the ruling party needs a political performance and media portrayal that it believes will provide it with internal support." In fact, it wants to divert attention from the severe social pressures the country is suffering from and the economic changes that are taking place under the pretext of privatization.

Brotherhood Figure Says Power Not Sought

NC0108211594 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 27 Jul 94 p 7

[Report by Misbah Qutub]

[Text] To shed light on the current conflict between the authorities and the Muslim Brotherhood and the potential outcome, AL-AHALI addressed several questions through 'Abd-al-Mun'im Salim Jabbarah, described by the Salsabil documents as the Muslim Brotherhood's information spokesman.

We received the answer from Dr. Muhammad Habib, the head of the Teaching Club in Asyut, who was also described by the Salsabil documents as the Brotherhood leader in Upper Egypt.

The questions revolved around the extent of the conflict, whether they expect emigration and travel to places such as Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran, and Sudan and whether their members will join and adjust to the authorities. The questions also concerned whether the organizational structure of the Brotherhood will be amended by establishing a democratic civilian party, whether there will be a merger with the Labor Party as a precautionary measure, and whether the Muslim brothers will come under the Brotherhood's radical wing as is the case in every conflict. There were questions on how they explain the democratic forces' refusal to stand by them, whether the international organizations will become the only support for the Brotherhood, and whether the Muslim brothers will resume clandestine action with the understanding that they already operate in a semiclandestine framework. There was a question on whether the latest Sudanese measures were intended to back the Muslim brothers and another question on the Brotherhood history of unconditional alliance with nondemocratic forces, such as [former Prime Minister] Isma'il Sidqi and al-Sadat on 1 July, and on the most extreme conditions for alliance with the democratic forces.

We don't have the time to conduct a dialogue, even with a Brotherhood leader. The following are the written answers we received. We will not comment on them.

No doubt there is someone who is waiting for an opportunity and trying to prepare the atmosphere for a clash between the authorities and the Brotherhood. For their part the Muslim brothers assert that they are not seeking a confrontation with any front and will not escalate the situation.

The Muslim brothers consider that their cause primarily involves the people, awakening their consciousness and senses, reminding them of their religion's teachings, and guiding them toward what benefits them both in this world and in the world hereafter. This can be achieved through good advice and calm methods.

Power is not an aim that the Muslim brothers seek to achieve or a hope they want to realize—unless they take power through the people's will and choosing without restriction or pressure—because, in this case, assuming power will be an assignment demanded by the people and a responsibility and trust that must be undertaken. But the reality says that this requires generations to achieve. So the feeling of other sides, primarily the ruling regime, that their interests are not in danger, must be ascertained as a reality and fact.

As we said in the answer to the first question the Muslim brothers are not seeking confrontation but if confrontation is imposed on them I believe they will not retreat from the arena. This does not mean they will turn to violence, agitation, or emigration to this or that country or to a change in the method or approach and so forth. Their aim will be to continue their propagation in the same calm way. We must highlight several points here:

Despite the harassment, blockade, and nondemocracy that we experience these days, Egypt remains the most desirable country for Islam.

The conflict between right and wrong will continue until God inherits the earth and what is on it. Preachers who advocate the cause of God have learned that afflictions and hardships are decreed by God. True, they don't look for and desire these afflictions and hardships but if they are imposed on them they will not be apprehensive about them.

Advocating the cause of God has bases and principles and the approach represents one of them. Those who advocate God like their approach as they like their very lives.

I believe that the claim that there is a radical wing within the Brotherhood is far removed from the truth and is not right. As is the case with any grouping, the Brotherood consists of rash and patient individuals and a difference in opinion is not ruled out over any issue. But the final stance is decided according to the shura [consultation] rules adopted by the preachers, in other words, according to the majority.

It is evident that there are some people inside the ruling authority who are scheming to abort the democratic experiment and pull the country into the age of totalitarianism.

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Therefore, defending the remnants of public freedoms and the available margin of democracy is vital and necessary, not only for individuals and parties but also for the sake of Egypt's present and future. Our ambition is to see a role for the Egyptian parties and political forces against this vicious onslaught. On the other hand, we do not rely much on the international organizations concerned with human rights and freedoms, although we appreciate their role. If the parties do not take a stand at this time, then all hopes in them will be dashed and they will lose their credibility, which will affect their status among the masses.

I believe that the government has been trying for a long time to marginalize the Muslim Brotherhood's role and harass it in every field. There are numerous examples of this. Yet the government has failed in the end to achieve this objective, despite the vast resources under its control. The reason is that the propagators are preaching a divine call and a heavenly message.

All despots, butchers, and tyrants who tried to uproot this call failed to do so. This call has also withstood all the lethal blows inflicted on it, despite their viciousness and violence. The tyrants had disappeared and their memories had vanished, as God's book says, and the call has remained strong and proud. It has also spread in all circles of society and across all the generations and has gained the confidence of peoples in all the public and labor elections it has fought.

The Muslim Brotherhood does not have secret organizations or an inclination to form them. This is not its policy, neither at this stage nor at any other. Additionally, secret action gravely damages the propagation call.

That secret organizations are not compatible with the Muslim Brotherhood's policy is evidenced by the latter's actions and activities in all the various spheres throughout the recent decades. The group's posters and signs are everywhere on Egypt's soil. Its members are in the field, living with the people in this capacity, mixing with them, and sharing in their joys and sorrows. This shows that they operate in broad daylight.

The Muslim Brotherhood has fought and taken part in the People's Assembly, Consultative Council, and local government elections as well as the various professional associations' elections. Its actions in all these elections were public and overt as manifested through its officials and slogans. It is now present in most professional associations and in a number of local councils.

Why should it, after all of this, resort to forming secret organizations?

I felt that even if the ruling authority tried to tighten the noose around the Muslim brothers, diminish their role, repress their activity, and circumvent their movement, they would never pursue the course of underground activity. This is because of the second reason; namely, that underground activity harms the act of promoting the call itself and poses a threat to it from within. Devious lines of thinking and ideologies evolve in the dark and are hard to detect. This can divert the call from its original and sound course and lead it astray.

As for the question on Sudan, I do not think so. Moreover, there is no evidence to this, or even suspicion. Besides, there is no relation whatsoever between the Muslim Brotherhood as a popular body and the Sudanese Government, or any other government.

As for alliances, we have had absolutely no alliances, let alone unconditional alliances with successive governments. The Muslim brothers do not exercise opposition for the sake of opposition. Neither do they support a government or a ruler to serve certain ends that others seek to serve. They find nothing wrong in supporting a ruler or a government, if this serves the public interest. Moreover, the Muslim brothers will not be used under any circumstances and at any stage to serve the interests of a ruler or government, with or without something in return.

Dealing with political parties and powers under terms needs explanation. The Muslim brothers seek to establish justice and defend the prejudiced (regardless of their creed or orientation) against dictatorship, injustice, and regime oppression. They believe that true democracy in its two factors, public freedoms and political pluralism, is the sound approach to all kinds of reform. It is a right of all. This cannot be done under the emergency law and the ill-reputed exceptional laws. Since all political parties and powers in Egypt share this vision with the Muslim Brotherhood, and because political reform under the present circumstances needs the consolidated efforts of all powers, why do the Muslim brothers not join hands with the parties, particularly on the basis of these principles?

The Muslim brothers' position on this issue is principled; it is not a tactic for a certain stage. Hence, it will not change.

Asked about the organization's relation to the global leadership of the Muslim Brotherhood in light of the current conflict, Dr. Habib answered: The major concern of Egypt's Muslim brothers will continue to be exclusive to promoting the call in Egypt through the various methods and activities, hoping to reach the goal of applying God's unblemished law through peaceful methods and constitutional channels. As we mentioned before, the brothers in each country will continue to work within their country according to their conditions and circumstances. The ruling regimes do not permit any connection to or relation between brothers in different countries.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat 'Desperate'; Warns of Further Unrest

TA0308100894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Aug 94 p A2

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Gay Bekhor]

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[Text] "I am ringing the warning bells in order to make you understand that the current situation cannot go on; neither the situation here in the field, nor the political stratagems taking place around us. Did you see the outbreak at the Erez checkpoint? The same will happen in many other locations. It will spread and blow up. Please pay attention to my warning bells."

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, who addressed this warning yesterday to a delegation of Jewish and Arab members of the United Kibbutz Movement's educational center at Giv'at Haviva who visited him in Gaza, looked surprisingly downcast and grim to his visitors. "Patience has a limit," he stated repeatedly, as he proceeded to elaborate on "the series of humiliations" inflicted on him by Israel, particularly by Shin Bet officers.

"Enough, my optimism is finished. Please write this down," he told the HA'ARETZ correspondent. "I am desperate. There are problems every day, at the Erez checkpoint and at the Jericho and Rafah crossings. Israeli military planes overfly Gaza every day. Must they do their training over these 360 square km? This is a violation of the agreement.

"And what about the taxes collected from the Palestinians that Israel has been keeping? We have not yet received them. How then should we interpret all this? It is a conspiracy against us, a conspiracy. Now, tell me: How am I going to pay salaries to the workers, to the Palestinian policemen? The World Bank refuses to transfer money to us under some lame pretexts. We have not yet received anything from them, and they already question our credibility. I ask myself every day: How am I going to go on this way?"

'Arafat conducted the meeting in a room resembling an air raid shelter adjacent to his office in the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation [PBC] building on Gaza's seaside. The room has no windows and the bricks are not plastered over. Suddenly there was a power cut, which only added to the PLO leader's edginess.

The PBC in Gaza is actually a tiny room which does not yet have any electricity or air conditioning. "We have received more equipment from the French," a Voice of Palestine anchorman apologized, "but the (Israeli) authorities have been holding it up."

"I accuse Israeli Shin Bet officers," 'Arafat noted. In his opinion, these officers have either been instructed to sabotage the agreement or else they are personally rebelling against the people who signed it. "It is an organized conspiracy," he said. He cited a few examples: "For instance, a few days ago we received a present from Spain: 50 motorbikes to be used by the police. The motorbikes were held five days at the Rafah crossing, until finally I learned that everything, the radios and other accessories mounted on them, had been stolen. So, who stole the equipment? It was stolen by those in charge of the crossing."

He cited another example: "There are some people who split from George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and are now in favor of peace. We asked (the Israeli authorities) to let them come here, to Gaza. A Shin Bet officer approached them at the (Rafah) crossing and told them: 'Even if Rabin gives you permission to enter, I will not let you in.' This only goes to show you what I have to deal with. I have no time to deal with Israeli intelligence institutions. I must deal with political governments."

'Arafat also had serious complaints about the political level: "According to the agreement, there must be two crossings in Rafah: one for Palestinians and another for Israelis. To date this has not been implemented." He accused the political level in Jerusalem of looking at the agreement from a security rather than from a political point of view. "Please write this down," he told the HA'ARETZ correspondent, "I am desperate. Enough, the Cairo affair is over."

He himself brought up the issue of the Israeli-Jordanian agreement, which apparently outraged him. "Can they (the Israelis), through their agreement with Jordan, violate the agreement with us? They violated the agreement with us on the issue of Jerusalem."

'Arafat's interpretation of the Israeli-Jordanian agreement is that it was signed in order to hurt him, his position, and the position of the Palestinians to favor the Hashemite kingdom. "Does Rabin think that (this way) he can sow dispute between the Jordanians and the Palestinians? Is that in your interest?" Referring to Jerusalem, 'Arafat noted that "Rabin knows I have the right to invite King Husayn (to Jerusalem)." This statement came in reply to a question by HA'ARETZ about Husayn's announcement that he will be coming to Jerusalem at Israel's invitation.

"Will Husayn come? Let him come, but this will be a violation of the agreement. It was agreed that the issue of Jerusalem would only be discussed at the final stage." 'Arafat refused to say whether he would be meeting King Husayn. When asked what he thinks about distinguishing between political and religious interests in Jerusalem, 'Arafat became furious. "Does Saudi Arabia not have an interest in Mecca and Medina? Does the British queen not have an interest in the churches in her country? Does Saddam Husayn not have an interest in al-Najaf? If so, why should such a demand be made of us?"

"I am telling you," the leader of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] said, "patience has a limit. The moment of truth has come, and the warning bells are ringing. I find it increasingly harder to go on with this situation, and the explosion will yet come. Day in and day out we are subjected to a new dose of humiliation, each one worse than the one before."

Is there a way back from the path of peace? "Not on my part," 'Arafat pointed out bitterly. "It is the other side

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that seems to have reneged on the (Oslo) accords." 'Arafat's distress in the course of the conversation was so evident that the Israeli visitors urged him not to despair.

Paraphrasing an Arabic saying, the delegates pled with him to put despair aside, but 'Arafat nodded his head back and forth with a grim smile on his face. When the delegates recounted their achievements in bringing Jews and Arabs closer, the PLO chairman asked: "What is the use of cultural and education activities when there are people who want to sabotage the coexistence? Patience has a limit. This difficult situation cannot go on. Enough, my optimism is finished."

He went on to say: "I am facing a tough struggle in the Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic arenas, and I am facing it alone, alone. Rabin only has one struggle to wage, inside Israel, whereas I must tackle difficulties on the part of Iran and Syria, Libya and Johannesburg. Yes, the Shiites in Johannesburg put up posters saying "Arafat is a traitor.' I am sorry to say that in the month I have been here I have found that the peace of the brave is only one-sided."

Asked by HA'ARETZ whether he is not encouraged by the ongoing negotiations in Cairo, he replied: "It is a waste of time. We were supposed to be handed over powers in the West Bank within three months. Where are those powers? Where is the safe passage we discussed at such length in the agreement? I, the president of this state, cannot go to Jericho. Last time I flew there aboard the Egyptian president's private plane. I am the president, and I cannot even get there.

"What do you think, that I will go (to the Israelis) to apply for a permit every time I want to go to Jericho? Does that make sense to you?" A few Arab bankers emerged from the room shortly before the meeting with the Israeli visitors. Judging by his ballistic mood, the meeting could not have been successful.

[An abridged version of the same conversation by the same correspondent on page A1 adds that commenting on the closure of the pro-Jordanian newspapers in East Jerusalem, 'Arafat said: "AL-NAHAR must respect Palestinian laws. AL-NAHAR does not recognize the PNA, and has not even acknowledged it. All the newspapers received a permit from us, but AL-NAHAR did not even apply."]

'Arafat on 'Disagreement' With Jordan on Jerusalem

MM0308092494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Aug 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Salih Qallab: "'Arafat Talks of Crisis With Husayn and About Confederation: I Offered King Something More Important Than Religious Jurisdiction"]

[Text] London—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has stressed that at one point he offered King Husayn of Jordan something "more important than religious jurisdiction over Islamic sites in Jerusalem." He said: "I proposed to King Husayn that we establish a confederation with two states, two flags, and two capitals, and that he becomes the president of this confederal state for life."

He told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone from Gaza: "I made this offer to King Husayn previously in the presence of a number of Jordanian officials. He kept silent for a while then said, I accept the offer, and we must draw up the details later."

'Arafat pointed out that "the most serious thing about shoving the issue of Islamic sites in Jerusalem into the Israeli-Jordanian statement is that it preempts the solution agreed between the PLO and Israel. And some parties are going to use it as an excuse to say that the Jerusalem issue has found its way to a solution through that formula."

'Arafat expressed his hope that this disagreement, which he regards as as a transient disagreement with "dear brothers" and a fraternal state "with which our relations are distinct and historic," will be resolved on the basis of brotherly understanding and common interests and in accordance with the international resolutions stipulating that the holy city is an integral part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, and also in accordance with the clauses of the Palestinian agreement that deferred talks on the Jerusalem issue to a later stage.

'Arafat reemphasized that the Palestinian state "will be a state of human rights and party and political pluralism. It will also be a democratic state in which no one will be punished or judged because of his beliefs or views." He said: The Palestinian people have experienced all types of repression and suppression, and they are now entitled to enjoy their free, independent state.

The Palestinian president stressed that the problem with the Jerusalem-based AL-NAHAR newspaper has nothing to do with its position on Jordan, and specifically the issue of religious jurisdiction over Islamic sites in Jerusalem. He said that the measures taken against this newspaper are attributable to its refusal to submit a license application to the Palestinian Authority like the other newspapers.

He said: The Palestinian National Authority does not judge anyone for his view, and it is willing not only to listen to the other opinion, but also to protect it by all means. He said that the problem of the AL-NAHAR newspaper is that it is rejecting the establishment of the Palestinian state by refusing to submit a license application in accordance with the Palestinian self-rule authority's instructions.

He went on: "We accept that the newspaper in question may make criticisms of the self-rule authority. The objection is to the way they are made. In fact we encourage it and others to do that. But the main issue is

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that it is resisting the establishment of the Palestinian state and refusing to recognize it—which cannot be allowed legally and nationally."

Asked whether the measures will continue against AL-NAHAR newspaper, 'Arafat said: "Yes, these measures will continue until it complies with the self-rule authority's directives and submits an application for a license. Then no one will be able to ban it or prevent it from expressing its view or those of the quarters behind it."

He added: It is a legal, not political, matter. And we are not at all opposed to AL-NAHAR's supporting the view of our brothers in Jordan with regard to religious jurisdiction over Islamic sites in the holy city.

'Arafat pointed out that the Palestinian police are providing protection for opposition forces along the lines of what they are doing with regard to the PLO and the forces rallying under its banner. He said: We guarded and protected a demonstration staged a few days ago by Hamas, the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], and other opposition forces.

Editorial Urges Jordanian-Palestinian Summit

TA0208153494 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 1 Aug 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Serious Coordination To Confront the Slippage"]

[Text] The Arab-Israeli conflict is on the verge of ending. This means that a new era has begun in the region, but what is worrisome and painful is that the closure of the pages of this conflict is being accompanied by a conflict between the elements of the Arab side.

In the Arab arena, tension prevails among several Arab states. One of its main reasons is that Israel has embarked on dealing with this element at the expense of the other without any of them paying attention to the Israeli plan and goal, epitomized by pushing these elements toward infighting. This is what we fear at this stage and this is what we repeatedly warned against.

This painful development calls for coordination on the highest levels among the Arab brothers, especially between Jordan and Palestine. All this deterioration and slippage, which we fear might deepen, has been caused by lack of serious coordination between the elements of the negotiating Arab side.

The current stage requires a summit meeting between Jordan and Palestine—a meeting that crosses the t's and dots the i's in a clear and serious way, a meeting that will be followed by a mini-Arab summit of the effective states directly concerned with a conflict that is approaching its end—so that this conflict will not turn from an Arab-Israeli conflict into an inter-Arab conflict.

What is required is ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and enhancing relations among Arabs in order to confront the new era—the era of construction and stability—without giving Israel what it wants at the expense of this or that fraternal people.

Immediate Negotiations on Jerusalem Urged

TA0208165094 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 2 Aug 94 p 13

[Editorial: "Jerusalem—Now"]

[Text] At the joint news conference with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak following the conclusion of the Taba summit two days ago, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, in answer to a question about Israel's position on the Jerusalem issue and the state of this issue in the peace talks, said: "According to the Declaration of Principles signed between Israel and the PLO, the issue of Jerusalem is one of the topics that will be discussed within framework of the final solution talks, which are to begin no later than two years after implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement. Israel believes that Jerusalem should remain united under Israeli sovereignty."

Prior to this, Israel repeatedly announced through Rabin and other Israeli officials that it does not intend to make political concessions on Jerusalem, which Israel regards as its eternal capital. Israel gave itself the right to distribute "religious privileges" in occupied Arab Jerusalem and extend invitations to visit the city. At the same time Israel is continuing to implement settlement plans in Arab Jerusalem in conformity with its declared position. Moreover, it keeps isolating the holy city from the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories and is examining ways of consolidating its control over what it calls "Greater Jerusalem" in accordance with recommendations of committees that it formed for this purpose.

It seems obvious that Israel will not wait until the beginning of the final solution talks to settle the Jerusalem issue. It has acted unilaterally, not only since the signing of the Oslo accord but since the occupation of Arab Jerusalem in 1967, to impose new realities in Jerusalem in a bid to change its demographic situation and ensure the presence of a Jewish majority and a Palestinian minority in it. This is what Israel is continuing to implement today and which constitutes a flagrant violation of the Oslo accord, which stipulated that it is impermissible to carry out unilateral steps during the talks.

In the face of this situation, the big question today is: Where is the credibility of a two-year wait until the beginning of negotiations over Jerusalem, and what will be negotiated upon in view of the categorical Israeli refusal to make any concessions that undermine the imposed Israeli sovereignty over the city? If, as it seems, Israel has accelerated its steps toward imposing unilateral new realities in Jerusalem before these talks begin, does this not constitute sufficient justification to demand negotiations over the status of the holy city now, especially as Israel has not adhered to its commitments

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in this regard and is continuing to interpret the accord in a way that promotes the Judaization of the holy city and consolidates Israeli control over it? This question is posed not only in the Palestinian arena but to every Arab and Muslim concerned with the issue of Jerusalem. It is also posed to anyone concerned in achieving a just and comprehensive peace in this region. It is a peace that cannot be achieved without a solution of the conflict's central issue, the Palestinian problem and the central question in it epitomized by the Jerusalem issue in all its political, historic, geographic, and religious dimensions.

Time has come for Israel to realize that it cannot talk about peace and at the same time continue the policy of annexing occupied Palestinian lands, foremost of all Jerusalem. This constitutes a definite prescription for foiling and derailing the peace efforts in a short period.

Figures Supporting Jordan's Jerusalem Stand Cited

JN0208180294 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Aug 94 p 15

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah and Dina Zurba from Bethlehem, Nazareth, and Hebron]

[Text] Palestinian officials from Nazareth, Bethlehem, and Hebron support Jordan's care of the holy places before and since the occupation. They commended Jordan for taking care of and serving the holy places since the beginning of the century. They called for a summit between His Majesty King Husayn and President 'Arafat. As they had on other occasions and events, they stressed that Jordan and Palestine are one country and one people, who share a common fate.

Ilyas Frayj, the mayor of Bethlehem and minister of tourism in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], spoke to AL-RA'Y from Bethlehem. He said: My support for His Majesty King Husayn and for Jordan is limitless and is not something new. It is a continuous support.

He added: Once again, I reiterate my full support for the Washington Declaration and all its clauses. However, I do hope that the differences between the brothers will not increase because Jordan and Palestine are one country and one people, who share a common fate.

Frayj said: We must do our very best to maintain Jordanian-Palestinian relations. This can only be done through constant coordination at the highest level between Jordan and Palestine in order to discuss, in a brotherly manner, all issues of difference, for which each side may have its own point of view.

Frayj said: I am reassured that the gap between the brothers will not grow, especially since Jordan stated that Jerusalem's political, geographic, and demographic future will be discussed during the final negotiations. This will include the fate of Jerusalem and the right to sovereignty of East Jerusalem. He noted that Jordan will support these rights.

Frayj added: I hope that all those concerned will strengthen ties between the one people of Jordan and Palestine and at all levels. He noted that he will be part of the delegation that will soon visit Amman from the occupied territories.

From Nazareth, 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah, head of the Arab Democracy Party, told AL-RA'Y that he supports the summit between His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. He said: I consider it a positive meeting aimed at reaching a Jordanian-Israeli peace agreement to reinforce the peace march in the region and to achieve the desired goal; that is, a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region.

Darawshah added: We consider the end of a state of war between Jordan and Israel a positive step even though it did create some negative atmospheres regarding the issue of holy places in Arab Jerusalem.

He said: The Jordanian clarification was good enough. Political and geographic jurisdiction on East Jerusalem is for the Palestinian people. This clarification has great importance and any misunderstanding between the Jordanian and Palestinian brothers should be prevented.

He added: I am very confident that the Jordanian Government and the PLO will adopt a united stand and seek to secure Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic rights in Arab Jerusalem. Neither Jordan nor the PLO will relinquish these rights. We consider Arab Jerusalem as the capital of the future Palestinian state. Therefore, we urge the brothers in Jordan and in the PNA to reinforce coordination between them in order to forestall any attempts to create divisions between them. Jordanian-Palestinian cohesion should continue to be reinforced because the two peoples share a common interest in all issues. This is especially in terms of the peace march, securing Arab rights, and liberating the territories from the Israeli occupation.

Darawshah said: I do not think that there is a need or a reason to exaggerate issues. They should be looked at them from the right perspective. Jordan will remain Jordan and Palestine will remain Palestine.

Darawshah called for a quick summit between His Majesty King Husayn and President 'Arafat to end these problems. This meeting should remove any misunderstanding because the interest is mutual and the cause is common. His majesty the king and the Jordanian Government are concerned about Arab and Palestinian rights and about good relations with the PLO.

In statements to AL-RA'Y, Mustafa al-Natshah, the mayor of Hebron, said: I believe that His Majesty King Husayn and President Yasir 'Arafat are capable of solving these issues.

Al-Natshah added: I call for a summit between his majesty the king and President 'Arafat to solve any problems in the political arena. There were previous

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problems that were ended by his his majesty the king and President 'Arafat thanks to their wisdom in serving the interest of the Arabs, Palestinians, and Jordanians.

Al-Natshah said: His Majesty King Husayn is concerned about the holy places and so is President 'Arafat. There are no big differences on this issue. Only Israel will benefit from this difference. It will be the only winner.

Al-Natshah said: Indeed, efforts by King Husayn and the Jordanian Government toward serving the holy places in Jerusalem and in the rest of the occupied territories are clear and appreciated. We are at a political turning point. So, let us stand hand in hand. Jordan and Palestine are one country and share a common fate.

AL-NAHAR Applies to PNA for Distribution Permit

LA0208171394 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] AL-NAHAR's representatives in Gaza and Jericho have presented petitions to the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] to allow them to distribute the newspaper in the self-rule areas. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that this step was taken upon instructions by 'Uthman al-Hallaq, the paper's owner. The PNA will examine these petitions.

Shaykh Yasin on PNA Issues, Washington Summit

JN0208113194 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 2 Aug 94 p 13

[Interview with Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the founder of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, by an unidentified correspondent for DAR AL-HAQQ WA AL-QANUN in Yasin's prison cell in Israel "a few days ago"]

[Text] Shaykh Ahmad Yasin is the founder of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and its spiritual leader. He is serving life imprisonment plus 15 years in the Zionist entity prisons after a 10-charge bill of indictement was brought against him.

A few days ago, the correspondent of DAR AL-HAQQ WA AL-QANUN [the establishment for right and law] visited Shaykh Ahmad Yasin in his cell amid strict security, and held a dialogue with him in the presence of a prison officer:

[Correspondent] Can you tell us about your health condition now, and how are the prison and hospital administrations treating you?

[Yasin] I have inflammation in my ear and an allergy in my lungs. I also still suffer from hemorrhoids and my legs are swollen. I am also totally paralyzed. The administration treats me in a special way, and I have no problems with it.

[Correspondent] How do you view relations between the Palestinian police and the Islamists, and the statements made by both sides' officials, particularly the statement made by Major General Nasr Yusuf following the killing of an Israeli officer in Rafah, and Hamas' statement on the same issue?

[Yasin] We must have clear farsightedness, because in their agreement with Israel, the police are committed to maintaining security and pursuing anyone who attacks them. Therefore, we must be responsible for our own actions, especially since confrontations in such cases are inevitable.

[Correspondent] How do you view the current negotiations between Israel and Jordan, and the Washington summit?

[Yasin] There has been an implicit understanding between Jordan and Israel since 1967, particularly on the policy of open bridges and security cooperation. There are no serious problems with Jordan. The delay [of an agreement between Jordan and Israel] is due to psychological sensitivities and the people's resistance. When this psychological sensitivity was eliminated by the influence of the news media, it became easier to talk to each other openly and to hold open negotiations, taking into considerations that many secret meetings were held in the past.

[Correspondent] Under these circumstances our people in the occupied territories are experiencing, what is your advice to the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], to the people in general, and to the Islamic movement?

[Yasin] I advise the PNA not to deal with its people in the same way other Arab regimes deal with their people so as not to destroy bridges with the Palestinian people, and to give the Palestinian citizen's dignity and freedom priority over personal interests. I also advise the Palestinian people not to relinquish their national rights in their homeland, Palestine, and not to give up their freedom, dignity, and sanctities for a handful of U.S. dollars.

[Correspondent] A few days ago, Dr. al-Zahhar said in Gaza that Hamas is ready to coordinate with all parties on the issue of Jerusalem if the objective is to finalize a clear program to maintain the Arab and Islamic identity and sanctity of the city, and to confront the plans to Judaize it. Can you explain your participation in such a program?

[Yasin] We will cooperate with anyone who seeks to liberate any inch of Palestine, particularly the Islamic holy places and Jerusalem.

[Correspondent] What is your opinion about the political party issue in light of the conflicting opinions?

[Yasin] We must not stand idle in the face of developments. We should study the positive and negative points in this issue, and then make the appropriate decision.

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Ghawshah Denies Hamas Involved in Bombings

LD0208133294 Tehran IRNA in English 1143 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] London, Aug. 2, IRNA—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has criticised attempts by the British media to brainwash the public into believing that the Palestinian Islamic movement was responsible for the recent bombing wave against Jewish targets.

Spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah said that Hamas had not been indicted so far in any operation executed outside Palestine and not a shred of evidence has been provided to support such allegations. Neither the U.S. nor Britain, nor any place on earth apart from the Palestinians' homeland, has been used by Hamas to resist the Israeli occupation in the struggle for liberation, he said.

Ghawshah was responding to a claim made in the London INDEPENDENT last week by Polish Jewish writer, Chaim Bermant, that the attack earlier this year on the New York world trade center was carried out by the Palestinian group.

In a letter to the daily Tuesday [2 August], the spokesman from Amman in Jordan said that the intentions of the former features editor of THE JEWISH CHRONICLE was to convince readers that Hamas could be behind other bombings in the west. Bermant in his article claimed that Hamas, like Hizballah and Islamic Jihad, were not only anti-Zionist but against western civilization to conjure up the fallacy that Islamic groups were not just against Israel but the whole world.

Hamas is also understood to have taken issue with the British Government, which indirectly tried to implicate the Palestinian group for last week's car bomb attack on the Israeli Embassy in London. On the day after the bombing, the Foreign Office in London released a statement saying Hamas had claimed responsibility from an unspecific source from "somewhere in the Middle East."

Gaza Fatah Denies Statement on 'Revolution'

TA0208184494 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 31 Jul 94 p 6

[Excerpt] Gaza, (the Autonomy), QUDS PRESS—Fatah has called for by-elections to choose members for the Palestine National Council [PNC] from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Fatah, which is the backbone of the PLO and the self-rule authority, called for supporting the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied areas of the West Bank until Israel withdraws from them.

In an internal letter, a copy of which was obtained by QUDS PRESS, Fatah said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has managed to impose conditions of arrogance. This induces us to take all necessary precautions in the future. Fatah stressed the need for the presence of Palestinian militant alternatives that can ensure the continuation of the armed popular revolution and the blessed intifadah in order to achieve equilibrium between the forces of pressure. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic on 2 August carries on page 7 a 200-word statement by Fatah's Media and Cultural Department, which says in part: "Fatah in the Gaza Strip denies issuing a publication called 'Fatah's Welfare Is the Revolution's Welfare,' selections from which were published by AL-QUDS on 31 July as quoted by QUDS PRESS."

[In the same issue of AL-QUDS and below this statement, a QUDS PRESS statement says that "the denial issued by Fatah in Gaza is correct, but in the above-mentioned report the news agency did not mention that this publication was issued in Gaza. In order to clarify the matter, QUDS PRESS announces that the official publication from which the report was taken is the one published in Tunis—Issue No. 12, year 30, first half of 1994. The official responsible for it is Sakhr Habash (Abu-Nizar)"]

Molotov Cocktails Hurled at Israeli Patrol

JN0308094394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Our correspondent says two Molotov cocktails were hurled at an Israeli military patrol in the town of Halhul last night. One of them hit the front of the military jeep, and the other exploded on the roadside. No casualties were reported.

Military reinforcements arrived in the area and carried out combing operations in search of the Molotov cocktail throwers.

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Algeria

5 French Nationals Killed in Algiers

LD0308111694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] A statement issued by the security services announced that a terrorist group, using a Nissan car, opened fire on a guard post belonging to a French school, Max Marchand, situated at Ain Allah, Dali Brahim municipality in Algiers. According to the security forces, the opening of fire resulted in the death of five French nationals. One other sustained some injuries.

The statement indicated that the security forces embarked on a search operation immediately after the shooting operation.

Victims Include Embassy Staff

LD0308101694 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1000 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Five French citizens—three gendarmes and two members of the French Embassy in Algeria—were murdered in Algiers this morning. This was just announced by Foreign Minister Alain Juppe. The exact circumstances of their deaths, which happened around 0700, have not been revealed. A government communique is awaited. Alain Juppe was speaking after a meeting at Matignon [the prime minister's office] attended by Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, and Defense Minister Francois Leotard.

Minister Condemns Killing

LD0308122994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Following the announcement by the security services on the assassination of five French nationals, the interior minister issued a statement in which he strongly condemned this criminal act targeting official representatives and nationals from a friendly country. In the same statement the interior minister reaffirmed the government's resolve to do all it can to put an end to terrorism and restore public order in the country. The interior minister expressed his sincere condolences to the French authorities and families of the victims.

Haddam Denies Expulsion, Favors Dialogue

LD0308092594 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] There appears to be confusion within the leadership of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], the organization that has been dissolved in Algeria. Rabah Bitar [as heard], who claims to be the spokesman of the movement abroad, has dismissed two other officials suspected of dissidence and of having perhaps joined the Armed Islamic Group, the GIA. One of them, Anouar Haddam, speaking from Washington, where he is based, is protesting. He spoke to Farida Ayari:

[Begin recording] [Haddam] We are still inside the FIS. Both of us—Cheikh Ahmed Zaoui and myself—are members of the FIS delegation abroad, and I am still chairman of the parliamentary delegation. I would like to use this chance to remind the international committee that FIS is still a political party. It has its political structures, including its national executive committee, which is inside the country. That, and that alone, can issue such a statement, if there is such.

[Ayari] The decision to expel you is being explained by the fact that you are considered a hardliner. Do you accept that label?

[Haddam] Our fathers, the moudjahidines of 1954, were at one time called hardliners too. It is an honor to be a hardliner, if being a hardliner means that we want our people to have the right to choose freely their political authority. We are proud to be hardliners if being a hardliner means that we make no concessions over this choice. But we are always open to dialogue, in spite of everything that has been said, to serious dialogue about the Algerian question.

[Ayari] A dialogue with the Army then, that rules Algeria today?

[Haddam] With the effective authorities in Algeria. Yes.

[Ayari] So that means the Army.

[Haddam] Yes. [end recording]

Security Forces Kill 22, Arrest 23 'Terrorists'

LD0208194694 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Security services announced in a statement today that they were able to kill 22 terrorists and arrest 23 others on Thursday and Sunday in the provinces of Skikda, Tlemcen, Blida, and Tizi Ouzou. The statement said that security forces seized 57 hunting rifles and 14 stolen cars during the search.

Egypt

Meetings With Libyans on Joint Committee Continue

Minister on Talks

NC0208124494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 2 Aug (MENA)—Following the first session of the Higher Egyptian-Libyan Joint Committee today, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and 'Abu- al-Majid al-Qa'ud, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee, discussed the special relations linking the two

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countries and the fraternal relations between President Husni Mubarak and Libyan revolution leader brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, which embody historic bilateral ties. He pointed out that the parties discussed bilateral cooperation and solidarity within the framework of the 10 agreements signed between them regulating integration in every field, agreements that are considered a unique and distinguished Arab model.

Al-Sharif noted that in his speech at the meeting, Prime Minister Sidqi highlighted the role of Egypt and President Mubarak in backing the efforts to reach a solution to the Lockerbie crisis to enable Libya to resume normal relations on the international level.

Al-Sharif said that in his statement, brother al-Qa'ud noted achievements in every sector and the hopes of both countries for further achievements, particularly in basic projects such as linking railways between the two countries. He praised cooperation in the areas of agriculture and land reclamation. He expressed the Libyan Jamahiriyah's appreciation of the role of Egypt and President Mubarak in their serious and continuing efforts to resolve the Lockerbie crisis in support of the resolutions of the Arab League, the OAU, and the Islamic Conference Organization.

Concluding his statement, al-Sharif said that the ministers who participated in the meetings between the Egyptian and Libyan delegations will hold bilateral meetings on Wednesday to discuss cooperation in various areas in preparation for the final meeting of the Higher Committee on Thursday.

Trade, Projects Discussed

NC0208154194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1356 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 2 Aug (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has stated that the discussions of the Higher Egyptian-Libyan Joint Committee, at its first meeting today, were characterized by a frankness that reflects the importance of the issues discussed and both parties' desire to promote and strengthen bilateral cooperation. In a statement after the first session today, Dr. Sidqi said that every area of cooperation was discussed in detail within the framework of 10 bilateral agreements. He noted that enormous positive progress has been achieved and that particular areas need further discussion and examination, which will take place today and tomorrow during the meetings between ministers of the two countries. He stressed that strengthening cooperation will serve the interests of both fraternal countries and peoples who live in the same region, noting the enormous Libyan investment in Egypt and the great Egyptian manpower in Libya. He said the Egyptian workers in Libya receive the utmost care and fraternal cooperation.

Engineer 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qu'ud, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee, said the two sides reviewed bilateral cooperation and growing trade. He noted that they also discussed ways of solving the obstacles facing cooperation in various areas and followed up on the strategic projects of linking railways and electric grids. He noted that they also debated the establishment of gas stations on the highway between Egypt and Libya and shipping oil products between Tobruk and Alexandria. He said the current session's meetings are practical and realistic, noting that the two sides seek to study all the problems and find successful solutions, benefiting from the experience of senior Egyptian officials.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said the committee discussed encouraging Libyan investment in Egypt, facilitating the procedures of property ownership, residence, and work. They dwelled on preparing an area in south Libya for the settlement of 1,200 Egyptian families to reclaim land in the subterranean aquifer area. He said that the two sides also discussed establishing a joint committee to study and promote the aquifer within the framework of the directives of President Husni Mubarak and Libyan revolution leader brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He noted that the two sides also followed up on the project of linking electric grids after signing contracts to install pylons up to the al-Sallum area and provide the necessary funds and credits to implement this project within the framework of an electric grid link-up with the Arab Maghreb countries up to Spain in line with the grid of the Arab east countries and Turkey.

Al-Sharif pointed out that the Higher Committee decided to facilitate procedures on the exchange and distribution of newspapers and magazines between the two countries and encourage the printing of each other's newspapers, working toward integrating news services between the Egyptian and Libyan media organs. They examined strengthening radio and television transmission between the two countries. Concluding his statement he said they also discussed establishing a joint border post in accordance with President Mubarak's instructions. The two sides will seek to standardize tax terminology and settle financial and banking transactions and Libyan debts to Egyptian companies operating in Libya. They will also promote the exchange of expertise in the production of medicines and enhance medical cooperation in general.

Libya's al-Muntasir Meets Musa

NC0208181894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met this evening with 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for Foreign Liaison, who said that during the meeting they discussed the issues that concern Egypt and Libya and ways to coordinate stances on these issues.

Al-Muntasir remarked that Libya's recent proposals on handing over the two defendants [in the Lockerbie case] show that it is prepared to implement the UN Security

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Council resolution. He said that Western states take the course of opposition to serve certain purposes.

He added that Libya has consented to the trial of the two defendants anywhere in the world. It suggested three alternatives for the trial venue, he said. He added that Libya continues its contacts with the members of the UN Security Council, international organizations, the Non-aligned Movement, the Arab League, and the OAU.

Al-Muntasir expressed his appreciation of the role President Mubarak is playing to solve the Libyan problem. The president is assuming a clear-cut stance on this matter, al-Muntasir said, adding that Libya always asks President Mubarak to contribute his efforts in resolving the crisis.

The Libyan official added that Libya refuses to try the two defendants in Scotland and the United States and that it is preparing to submit a draft resolution to the UN Security Council on 15 August to amend Resolutions 731 and 883 to authorize the United Nations to hold the trial in The Hague.

The Libyan secretary added that he discussed this issue during his meeting with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa this evening.

Mubarak, Sidqi Meet al-Qa'ud

NC0308113094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Alexandria, 3 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Engineer 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee, in al- Muntazah Palace in Alexandria today.

'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud is currently in Egypt leading his country's delegation to the Higher Egyptian-Libyan Joint Committee meetings.

Sudanese Claim of Troops Massing on Border Denied

NC0308102294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0854 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Aug (MENA)—A responsible high-ranking source has denied claims by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council, that Egypt has increased its military forces at the Egyptian-Sudanese border, especially in the Hala'ib and (Zujyan) border areas.

In an exclusive statement to the weekly AL-MUSAWWAR to be published on Friday, the source said that al-Bashir's statements are untrue. He added that all that has happened is that the military survey unit has completed the demarcation of the border line with Sudan at the 22d parallel according to the international border and that this measure required moving the (Zujyan) police post along the same line so that control over the border points will be tighter following numerous incidents of arms smuggling.

The source said charges by the Khartoum government in a memorandum to the Arab League are untrue, because Egypt has not added one soldier to its forces there. The memorandum, he noted, recalls al-Bashir's claim last year that Egypt massed 30,000 troops and deployed several heavy artillery guns and missiles in the Hala'ib area of the Sudanese border. At the time, the source went on, President Mubarak affirmed to Lt. Gen. al-Bashir that the claim was untrue, because the situation did not merit this huge military mass and because there were no targets requiring the presence of Egyptian heavy artillery in the area.

President Mubarak told Lt. Gen. al-Bashir that Egypt only has 1,200 soldiers on the border against 900 Sudanese troops and that Egypt cannot contemplate fighting Sudan. President Mubarak clarified that he was ready to prepare special aircraft immediately so that al-Bashir might inspect the area with Mubarak and make sure for himself that the claim was untrue. Al-Bashir retracted his statements.

Musa to Geneva; Comments on Bosnia, Mideast Arms

NC0308084294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo for Geneva this morning to attend meetings of the Islamic Liaison Group charged with discussing the Bosnian problem. He was seen off at the airport by the Foreign Ministry protocol chief, Ambassador Husni al-'Ujayzi.

In a departure statement at Cairo Airport, Musa said there are some ideas for a draft resolution to be forwarded to the Security Council to escalate sanctions against the Serbs, primarily freezing their assets abroad and restricting trade.

He expressed hope that sanctions against the Serbs will be tightened, as they have not and will not accept a compromise solution. He said: We are still following up on the issue and see that any retreat will lead to catastrophe.

He also expressed hope that the international contact group will not allow the Serbs any excuses now that they have rejected all international plans. He hopes the group will act immediately to escalate sanctions against the Serbs.

He said that tomorrow he will address the Disarmament Committee, currently in session in Geneva, focusing on the link between Middle Eastern regional issues and disarmament.

Musa pointed out that eliminating weapons of mass destruction as part of measures to build a new Middle East is an important issue that requires justice and

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equality in dealing with all countries of the region. He noted that this issue will be discussed as the conference to renew the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty approaches. He said the issue needs clarification and that this is extremely important, as it is one of the fundamental bases upon which peace in the Middle East depends.

Musa said that he will hold contacts in Geneva with the foreign ministers of member countries of the Islamic Liaison Group to discuss current issues.

'Official' Trade Visit by Iranian Group Reported

NC0208134694 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[Text] Diplomatic sources have told AL-SHA'B that a high-level Iranian economic delegation visited Cairo in the past few days and held talks with officials of the Foreign Affairs, Economy, and Industry Ministries and the Central Bank. The discussions focused on ways to revive bilateral economic cooperation.

The sources added that the Iranian economic delegation's visit, following a similar visit in December 1992, is an important development. It came as a direct result of the meeting between Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the sidelines of the nonaligned foreign ministers' recent Cairo conference.

The sources added that the Iranian delegation included Ahmad 'Izz Kashan, deputy governor of Iran's Central Bank, and Murtada Araminia, the governor of Bank Mellat. The delegation proposed a specific program of economic cooperation including an increase in the volume of bilateral trade. This was judged to be the first brick in building an economic cooperation structure between the two countries.

The Iranian delegation expressed a wish to increase the volume of bilateral trade to more than $1 billion over the next two years, an amount designed to grow progressively in subsequent years.

A paper submitted by the Iranians states that Egyptian and Iranian products possess particular special characteristics, something that encourages trade relations. The paper urged opening trade bureaus, forming a governmental committee comprising officials from both countries that will seek to increase trade volume between them, formulating the main outlines of this trade relationship, and encouraging cooperation between Egyptian and Iranian businessmen.

The Egyptian media have not mentioned this visit, the first official one of its kind. The December 1992 visit was merely a meeting between Egyptian and Iranian businessmen.

President Mubarak Telephones UAE Leader

NC0208204794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] President Husni Mubarak today telephoned United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan as part of the continuing consultations between the two leaders on various affairs.

U.S. 'Base' in Kuwait Said Aimed at Iran

NC0208134894 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] AL-SHA'B has learned that the huge military base the United States built in Kuwait will serve anti-Iranian American interests in the future. With the help of other elements, the United States is planning to do away with Islamic rule in Iran, which the Clinton Administration believes poses a grave threat to its interests, as it believes the Iraqi regime does.

According to our information, the U.S. National Security Council and the intelligence apparatus, the CIA, have worked out a plan that prepares the region for accepting "peace" with Israel, enhances stability, and eliminates hostilities and inconsistency among regional states. According to U.S. claims, these goals can only be realized after eliminating the Islamic regime in Iran.

American planners believe this can only be achieved through effective U.S. military support; in other words, through an advanced U.S. military presence, such as that already deployed in Kuwait, where the sophisticated base is considered one of the pillars in facing the ruling regime in Iran.

New Supply Minister, Ismailia Governor Named

NC0308105694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 3 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak issued a presidential decree today appointing Dr. Ahmad Ahmad Juwayli minister of supply and domestic trade.

The president issued another presidential decree appointing Muhammad 'Abd-al-Salam al-Mahjub governor of Ismailia, succeeding Ahmad Juwayli.

Dr. Juwayli and 'Abd-al-Salam al-Mahjub took the constitutional oath before President Mubarak in al-Muntazah Palace this morning. Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and the head of the President's Office, Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi, were present. [passage omitted]

Economists Explain Opposition to Devaluation

NC0208154294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, 2 Aug (MENA)—Egyptian economic circles unanimously agree on the need to maintain the Egyptian pound's current rate to protect the greater interests of the Egyptian economy.

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According to these circles the devaluation of the Egyptian pound will not favor development or investment rates and will not help to increase exports, contrary to claims by some officials in international financial institutions.

Egyptian economists believe that the current stability of the Egyptian pound against the U.S. dollar means that the pound has actually dropped, since dollar rates on world stock markets dropped by almost 8 percent in the past few weeks.

A responsible source in the Ministry of International Cooperation pointed out that the devaluation of the pound was actually discussed during the talks the Egyptian economic delegation held recently in Washington with the IMF on the economic reform program. The issue has been settled and there is no dispute over it with IMF officials, certainly not now, the official said.

The official affirmed that Egypt's negotiating position with international financial institutions is strong, because it is based on a solid foundation of fiscal and financial reform. He pointed out that the current stability of exchange rates is supported by a currency reserve at the Central Bank that exceeds $16 billion. [passage omitted]

Mahmud 'Abd-al-'Aziz, chairman of the Egyptian Banks Federation, bases his rejection of the pound's devaluation on several reasons, primarily that the devaluation will not benefit imports, especially as Egypt imports most of the materials needed for production. If the pound is devalued production costs will rise and Egyptian goods will fail to compete in local and global markets.

'Abd-al-'Aziz warns that the devaluation of the pound may strongly shake the companies that based their feasibility studies on current rates. He added that the devaluation will reflect negatively on the pound as a reservoir of value, especially as a large portion of dollar savings was recently changed into local currency due to the stability of exchange rates and increased interest rates, which are still higher than world rates. [passage omitted]

Jamal al-Nazir, deputy chairman of the Egyptian Businessmen's Association and former minister of tourism, stressed that the pound's devaluation will harm the national economy. It will lead to an increase in import prices and accordingly a drop in exports, because much of the material needed for production is imported, he said, adding that this will subsequently trigger a rise in the price of Egyptian commodities and diminish their ability to compete in world markets.

Al-Nazir believes the devaluation will not help invisible exports, primarily tourism, since the drop in tourism rates had nothing to do with prices or cost, but was associated with other factors that are about to disappear. He called for achieving a balance between imports and exports, particularly because the trade balance deficit is still very high, while the balance of payments reflects a surplus.

Jamal al-Nazir believes that the IMF builds its ideas on a purely theoretical basis; it cannot be generalized with regard to every state without considering the unique circumstance of individual states.

He stressed the need to take concrete steps to cut down government spending, which will help reduce the deficit in the state budget, curb inflation, and stabilize prices. He pointed out that balancing imports and exports and cutting down government spending are bound to achieve the desired parity in the trade balance. If this happens there will be no need to devalue the pound, the value of which will increase under such circumstances, he said. [passage omitted]

Na'ilah 'Allubah, chairman of the export committee at the Egyptian Businessmen's Association, strongly rejects the devaluation of the Egyptian pound because it will strongly upset the local market, trigger a rise in the price of intermediate goods, and tempt people to buy foreign currency. This will add to the burdens of ordinary citizens, she said. [passage omitted]

Libya

Groups Said Sent to Egypt To Target Opposition

MM0208134494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Aug 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Opposition Accuses Tripoli of Sending Groups To Abduct Its Members"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Libyan opposition sources have said that Egyptian authorities have taken tight security measures to protect the lives of Libyan oppositionists living in Egypt.

The sources said that they have informed Egyptian security services of the arrival of a Libyan group tasked with collecting information about Libyan opposition symbols, watching their movements, and identifying their addresses and places of residence in preparation for their physical liquidation or abduction along the line of the abduction of Libyan National Alliance leader Mansur al-Kikhya, who disappeared in mysterious circumstances at the end of last year and whose whereabouts is still unknown.

The sources stressed that another two Libyan groups have recently gone to Cyprus and Malta on similar missions. They expressed their confidence in the Egyptian authorities' ability to protect Libyan oppositionists and thwart the Libyan regime's scheme.

The sources added that the Libyan opposition has postponed its general conference, which was scheduled to be

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held in Washington in September, in order to make good preparation for the conference to ensure its success.

Sudan

Al-Turabi Appeals for Yemeni Reconciliation

EA0308062394 Khartoum SUNA in English 1625 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Aug (SUNA)—The secretariat-general for the Popular Arab and Islamic Conference (PAIC) has called on the Yemeni leadership to show during the period of peace and victory the courage and wisdom it had manifested at the stage of danger and war by embarking on reconciliation in a manner that preserves the country's interests. The appeal, which was issued by PAIC secretary-general Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, noted that this would abort the plots which will continue despite their defeat. Dr. al-Turabi said that reconciliation would enable the united and victorious Yemen to restore its leading role in stopping the Arab deterioration resulting from disunity. The PAIC considers the great victory achieved in Yemen as a victory for the whole nation, Dr. al-Turabi concluded.

Minister Says Refugees Returning Voluntarily

EA0308061094 Khartoum SUNA in English 1705 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 2 Aug (SUNA)—The minister at the federal government chamber [as received], Mr 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, has announced that a great number of the Sudanese refugees in the neighbouring countries are on their way back home voluntarily to the their homeland. In a press statement to SUNA, Dr. Muhammad attributed the voluntary return by those refugees to several reasons, top of them is their desire for peace. The refugees are being recruited by force and taken from the refugees camps in some of the neighbouring countries to war, said Dr. Muhammad. He pointed out that the Peace and Development Foundation is embarked on a programme to absorb the refugees who return home in collaboration with the peace department at the Foreign Ministry, which is headed by ambassador [name indistinct]. [passage omitted]

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Kuwait

Defense Minister on Bases, Missile System, Iran

LD0308105694 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0853 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, 3 Aug (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir in a press interview to be published here tomorrow has denied allegations regarding the existence in Kuwait of military bases belonging to any force and described such allegations as being untrue.

In an interview with the AL-MUSAWWAR magazine, Shaykh Ahmad stressed that there are security arrangements which Kuwait has resorted to through agreements with the United States, Britain, France, and Russia. He pointed out that in accordance with these security agreements there is an equipped brigade ready to receive soldiers and equipments during exercises which, as everybody knows, exist in accordance with an established plan. In this connection he pointed out that the date of signing an agreement with China similar to the agreements which were signed with the permenant member-states of the UN Security Council—the United States, Britain, France, and Russia—has not been fixed yet. Regarding the conclusion of arms deals Shaykh Ahmad pointed out that the Kuwaiti government has taken a decision that such deals should be through the governments. He said that through this decision there will be no opportunity to cast doubt on the arms deals because the latter will be between governments. He pointed out that the arms deals agreements are determined according to the requirements of the armed forces general staff and specialized committees. [passage omitted]

He pointed out that there are programs for future joint military exercises between the Kuwaiti and Egyptian forces. He praised the contribution of the Egyptian armed forces through training toward the rebuilding of the Kuwaiti army. He said that concentration in future plans will be on purchasing a missile system, and in this Egypt can make a contribution in participation with other states, which he refused to name. [passage omitted]

Regarding relations with Iran, the Kuwaiti defense minister said that Iran is a neighboring Islamic state which borders the Gulf and that relations with Iran "are based on each country's .espect for the laws and constitution of the other." He said that a request is now being studied for holding joint military exercises with Iran. He pointed out that it is necessary to convey this study to the brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council. He stressed that it is necessary to be cautious and vigilant to face any emergency at a time when the Iraqi regime is deploying eight divisions [near the Kuwaiti border] which constitute a strike force and is rebuilding itself. [passage omitted]

Comments on Buying Russian Arms

LD0208164094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 2 Aug 94

[] Kuwait City 02 Aug KUNA—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud confirmed here today that Kuwait will soon conclude a contract, which he did not specify, to purchase arms from Russia.

At the conclusion of the joint military maneuvers, "Intrinsic Action," carried out by Kuwaiti-U.S. forces since mid-July using live ammunition in al-Adira', north of Kuwait, Minister al-Hamud stated that "these weapons meet the needs of the Kuwaiti Army; and that this deal falls within the security accord that was signed between the two countries that covers joint cooperation in all fields including the military sphere".

He saw cooperation with sisterly and friendly states as the most important lesson that had been learnt from the experience of the atrocious Iraqi invasion against the state of Kuwait.

He said that military cooperation among the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states has been continuing for fourteen years i.e since the GCC inception. He underlined that Kuwait was seeking to further consolidate its relations with GCC states via a tactical cooperation with GCC member-states.

He described these military exercises as a message to deter the Iraqi regime, in the hope that it would have received and digested its contents. He stressed that "Kuwait will confront anybody who seeks to harm it." At the same time, he underlined that "Kuwait is a peaceful state; this however does not mean that it will refrain from defending itself."

He praised the standard of the maneuvers whose conclusion he witnessed today. Their objective was to improve the fighting capability of the Armed Forces, and familiarize them with the most sophisticated weapons. He highlighted the role of these exercises in building up the Kuwait Army, which was aware of the significance of self-defense.

Government To Discuss Trade Agreement With Russia

LD0208105794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1422 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] Kuwait City, 1 Aug (KUNA)—The Kuwait Investment Authority [KIA] has announced that Kuwait would hold negotiations with Russia on the promotion and protection of investments between the two countries. These talks are due to take place in Moscow in the period 8-10 August.

In an exclusive statement to the Kuwaiti news agency KUNA, Abdullah al-Ramadan, deputy manager of investments at KIA's Department of Real Estate and Direct Investments, said: "We are keen to reach an

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agreement on the strength of the special Kuwaiti-Russian relations and with a view to bolstering trade agreements in the interest of the two countries."

Al-Ramadan, who will lead the Kuwaiti delegation to the talks, added that the agreement would examine several privileges, including the non-confiscation of capital, free movement of funds between the two countries, and free currency exchange.

Al-Ramadan stated that the agreement would provide a protection cover against risks for non-trade investments such as compensation for losses incurred as a result of civil disobedience or the freezing of capital assets for example. He also stressed that the Kuwaiti side would try to obtain as many privileges as possible.

Al-Ramadan pointed out that the first round of negotiations was held in Kuwait in October 1989 and the second round in Moscow in July 1990. During these sessions some clauses of the agreement were suspended.

He explained that the forthcoming negotiations will acquire a new shape due to the economic reforms under way in Russia, the existence of economic openness, and the different rules and legislations to attract foreign capital.

Al-Ramadan hoped that the Kuwaiti and Russian sides would reach this agreement and that the mission of the Kuwaiti delegation would be crowned with success.

Al-Ramadan stated that the agreement included 15 clauses, among them the definition of investment, investor and investment incentive, and that the agreement would cover a period of 20 to 30 years.

Replying to a question whether Kuwait had any investment in Russia at present, al-Ramadan said: Currently we do not have any investment in Russia, but there are financial relations between the two countries. From time to time, the KIA studies projects presented by Russia to determine their economic feasibility.

The delegation is made up of KIA's legal consultant, Dr. Ali Hakim, Ghazi Abd al-Jalil from the Finance Ministry, and two representatives from the Foreign Ministry.

The delegation will leave for Moscow on 7 August 1994.

Minister's Statement on Iraqi Invasion Anniversary

LD0208135094 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that the Iraqi regime carried out its abominable crime, namely the invasion of Kuwait on the dawn of 2 August 1990, driven by illusions of domination and expansion. On the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the tyrannical Iraqi invasion, marked today, the foreign minister said: This crime, committed by the Baghdad regime against the state of Kuwait and its peaceloving people, was unprecedented in modern history since that regime violated all Arab and international conventions and agreements, foremost the rights of neighborliness and brotherhood.

The first deputy prime minister and foreign minister added that this crime was also an episode in the series of crimes committed by the Iraqi regime against its people, the region's security and stability, and against Arab solidarity and unity. Shaykh Sabah al- Ahmad al-Jabir further said: On this painful anniversary Kuwait recalls with pride the glorious heroism of the children of Kuwait inside the country and abroad in their intrepid resistance to the criminal Iraqi occupation. It also recalls particularly the heroic role and the courageous sacrifices made by the devoted martyrs of the homeland who offered their lives to recover the freedom and independence of their homeland Kuwait and rid it of the invaders and aggressors.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad added: While remembering the aggression Kuwait will not forget its children held prisoner and hostage and who were unjustly and brutally imprisoned by the troops of the despicable Iraqi occupation. The first deputy prime minister and foreign minister also said that the issue of the Kuwaitis held prisoner and hostage and their return to their families and relatives is Kuwait's top priority. He prayed God to have mercy for the martyrs, to accept them into his heaven and to speed up the return of the prisoners and hostages to their families and relatives safe and sound.

In his statement Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir talked about the honorable and brave stands taken by the sisterly Arab countries and the friendly countries. He said in this respect: The state of Kuwait recalls with deep gratitude the stands taken by those countries during the ordeal of the aggression, their opposition to the injustice and the aggression, their rejection of the criminal Iraqi occupation, and their effective participation in the liberation of Kuwait from the claws of the aggressors and the invaders.

The first deputy prime minister and foreign minister also praised the honorable stands which those countries are still taking by supporting Kuwait's just causes and continuing to remind the invaders of the need to fully implement the Security Council resolutions relevant to their criminal aggression on the state of Kuwait.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir concluded his statement by saying: This anniversary and the pain and tragedies it represents and which the beloved homeland and its loyal people had to endure will undoubtedly remain a strong incentive for everybody to continue their effort and their contribution to serve Kuwait and its prestige under the wise and sound leadership of his highness the amir and his loyal heir apparent.

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Iraqi Invasion Reparation Payments Distributed

LD0208140694 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1156 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 2 Aug (KUNA)—The General Authority for the Estimation of Reparations for losses resulting from the Iraqi invasion distributed the first payments today concerning the claims for serious personal injuries or death, the claims of Group B. [passage omitted]

The Authority's chairman, 'Abd al-Rahman al-Huti, said the total number of claims relating to Group B submitted to the commissioners was 1,119 from 18 countries, and that 670 claims were approved. He added that the total sum of reparations to compensate the first batch of Group B amounted to $2,747,500. He said Kuwait submitted 364 claims and 303 were approved, 30 were dismissed, and six were referred to Group C. A total of 25 were deferred pending further information. Kuwait's share of the reparations was $1,397,500. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sa'd Departs for Visit to Italy

LD0308091194 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0829 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 3 Aug (KUNA)—Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, headed for Italy this morning on an official visit. During the visit, Shaykh Sa'd is to hold, for the first time, official negotiations with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

Shaykh Sa'd and his Italian counterpart will discuss the issue of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border and the Kuwaiti captives, detainees, and foreigners who are still in Iraqi prisons. The two sides will also discuss bilateral ties and issues of common interest. Shaykh Sa'd's visit to Italy will last three weeks. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Minister Receives Iraqi Information Delegation

JN0208200094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Sanaa, 2 Aug (INA)—Yemeni Interior Minister Yahya al-Mutawakkil received in Sanaa today Naji al-Hadithi, under secretary of the Iraqi Culture and Information Ministry, and his accompanying media and press delegation.

During the meeting, al-Mutawakkil expressed the Yemeni people's pride in Iraq's honorable position in support of Yemen's unity and legitimate authorities. He indicated that Iraq's battle is the same as Yemen's battle.

Al-Mutawakkil added that the security situation in Yemen is stable and that nothing is disturbing it. He said that the army and security forces are in full control of the situation in all governorates, and that calm is prevailing in all Yemeni governorates.

Al-Hadithi said the Iraqi people and leadership take pride in the triumph of legitimacy and unity in fraternal Yemen. He also conveyed the Iraqi people's congratulations to the Yemeni people on their great victory, and wished the Yemeni leadership and people continued might, victory, and comprehensive progress.

Al-'Anasi Urges Yemenis Abroad To Return

MM0208112894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Aug 94 p 5

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Anasi, member of the Yemeni General People's Congress General Committee, by Lutfi Shatarah in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shatarah] There have been reports of a cabinet reshuffle or a new Yemeni Government formation. What truth is there in this?

[Al-'Anasi] What has been reported is true and it is a normal thing to happen after the end of a political crisis, as a new political reality has emerged. This is in addition to the nature of the present stage, which requires the presence of a strong government capable of restoring the smile to people's faces and building what the forces of "apostasy and secession" have destroyed. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] Southern leaders abroad are threatening to launch armed actions if Sanaa refuses to continue the dialogue abroad.

[Al-'Anasi] If they had the capability to continue fighting, they would not have fled the country and become refugees and homeless. We believe that those statements are made by desperate people. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] A considerable number of southern politicians and military men are outside the country with their weapons. Is it not in Yemen's interests to hold the dialogue abroad with the participation of Arab parties in order to secure a settlement acceptable to everyone, as long as all Yemenis believe that the Pledge and Accord Document is still valid for implementation?

[Al-'Anasi] A number of the military men abroad have begun to return to Yemen and benefited from the general amnesty decision. And the weapons have begun to be returned. We care about our soldiers and employees more than the political and administrative cadres who have been deceived and are now abroad. We care about them more than any international, Arab, or regional committee. Once again I renew our invitation to those who are still abroad to return to their country and perform their work in the framework of unity and compliance with constitutional legitimacy and its institutions.

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Al-Jifri Denies Disagreements Among Leaders

MM0208151694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Aug 94 p 5

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, "vice president of the Democratic Republic of Yemen proclaimed in Aden," by Lutfi Shatarah; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shatarah] President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is preparing to ask the states in which southern leaders are present to extradite them to Sanaa, and he pointed out that your name is among those he wants extradited.

[Al-Jifri] Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih—may God guide him—tends to reverse the matter, as usual. He is demanding that we stand trial, when it is he who should stand trial for what he and those supporting him have committed against the south or the north. He and his supporters carried out mass murder and assassinations. They resorted to destruction and waged an all-out war against us. They have fragmented Yemen, fomented seditions, and carried out looting and rape. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] Do you accept Sanaa's call for conducting the dialogue inside Yemen?

[Al-Jifri] There was a dialogue inside Yemen which ended with the Pledge and Accord Document. Did the Sanaa regime implement a single letter of it? Did it not refuse to implement its first clause, namely to arrest those who carried out the assassinations and the bombings, on the pretext that they turned to their tribes, which it said could not fight? Later we saw how this regime was able to wage a war of annihilation and destruction on the south as a whole. We also saw how those accused of committing these actions in the south were arrested, while no one was arrested in the north.

The important thing is not the venue of the dialogue, but, rather, the commitment to its results. Does the Sanaa regime comply with its pledges and agreements?! Bitter experiences has taught us that this regime complies with nothing. This is why there have to be guarantees. And I do not believe that anyone will offer any guarantees for a regime like that in Sanaa. The bankrupt cannot be guaranteed by anyone. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] Has the southern leadership drawn up a plan for its moves at the military and political levels?

[Al-Jifri] Praise be to God, we are proceeding with a clear vision and we have all options in front of us. "And soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take." [Koranic verse] We have a cause and a right, and our cause will not die and our right will not be lost, God willing.

[Shatarah] There are reports about the formation of a new southern leadership abroad. Does that mean the existence of a disagreement among the ranks of the current leadership?

[Al-Jifri] There are no disagreements among the ranks of our leadership. We are trying to bring about a more developed formula. But it does not necessarily mean the formation of a new leadership. We entered an experiment together, and even though it was a short one, it was a rich experience in view of the magnitude of the events we experienced. Thus a cooperation formula should be developed in order to keep pace with the new phase resulting from the experiment and to achieve cohesion among all the masses of our people through a joint action that restores rights to their owners. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] Are there any contacts with 'Ali Salim al-Bid and the other leaders? What are the reasons preventing him from participating in the meetings publicly?

[Al-Jifri] Contacts with Brother President 'Ali Salim al-Bid are continuing, what is preventing him from participating in the meetings is his health. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Views Domestic Situation

NC0208191394 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 25 Jul p 12

[Interview with Information Minister Hasan al-Lawzi by Nur al-Huda Zaki and Ahmad Murad in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [AL-'ARABI] The government represents parties that have won ministerial portfolios following an election process. Will Yemen witness new elections?

[Al-Lawzi] We have no plans for new elections because the results of the recent elections remain valid and in accordance with the Constitution. Accordingly, parliament will complete its work and a full four-year session. The ongoing dialogue revolves around forming a new cabinet and including new ministers in accordance with the parties' representation in the election process.

[AL-'ARABI) What about the share of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], which had 56 seats in parliament?

[Al-Lawzi] The YSP will be represented in the new government. Some ministers will retain their portfolios.

[AL-'ARABI] What about the share of the Islamic Reform Movement, which won 82 seats?

[Al-Lawzi] All these proportions will govern the representation of each party in the government and in national action.

[AL-'ARABI] What new forces will enter the government?

[Al-Lawzi] There will be one portfolio for each of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Nasirists, and the al-Rabitah Party because these parties imposed their presence and view on the political struggle process and adopted a great positive stance.

[AL-'ARABI] We understand from this that the time to distribute rewards has come.

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[Al-Lawzi] The attitude of all these parties toward unity and legality has made them fully qualified to shoulder responsibility. I do not believe this situation came about because of one bloc's attitude and the exclusion of another. The stand on unity was sacred and was adopted by every Yemeni. Consequently, these political forces adopted unforgettable stances that were in line with their principles. Their presence and participation will reflect the picture of the new Yemen. Together we shall embark on the major jihad of which the leader-president spoke after the end of the minor jihad.

[AL-'ARABI] Why don't you mention the Islamic Jihad Movement that participated in the fighting? And what about its share in the coming government?

[Al-Lawzi] There is nothing in Yemen called the Islamic Jihad Movement. There is a political organization called the Yemeni Reform Grouping, the religious message of which is clear. All the parties and forces have religious messages, the same as in Egypt. The Yemeni people are Muslims and nobody can outdo them.

[AL-'ARABI] What about the share of the Islamic Jihad after participating in the fighting?

[Al-Lawzi] The war was largely a regular war, the burdens of which were carried by the Yemeni Armed Forces with the support of the Yemeni people. The attempts by the media to give a religious character to the confrontation and to refer to particular fatwas [religious rulings] do not convey a true picture. The Islamic Reform Movement is a national and pan-Arab organization and is more open than other organizations that have stricter Islamic codes. It was close to the YSP and agreed with it on several constitutional issues, on the shari'ah, and on the economic program in Yemen. Agreements were signed between the two sides. But foreign media tried to describe the events in Yemen as an extension of the events in Iraq, Sudan, and Jordan. All this is false information aimed at creating a false impression. We have our program, which does not depart from Islam, the requirements of the modern age, respect for human rights, or from building a modern civilian society.

[AL-'ARABI] And why didn't this program appear before the fighting?

[Al-Lawzi] Because the formula for political pluralism did not exist before. Why is it worrying for us as Arabs and an Islamic majority in the region to see an organization that adopts religious principles as its motto and succeeds in the elections? Why do we always try to cancel each other out? This is what creates sedition, breeds conflict, and perhaps causes war. We in Yemen could make room for others so they may have an opportunity. We let the people stand up to any current that they feel will be against them. In the West there are parties that take religious names. They could be extremist Christian or democratic Christian parties, so why worry so much about a religious slogan raised in an Islamic nation?

[AL-'ARABI] The worry arises from the fact that the religious motto is being used as a tool for destruction and ruin and to commit crimes against civil society and shari'ah itself.

[Al-Lawzi] Then let us call it by its real name: terrorism and crime against civil society. We must not view Islam or the Muslims through dark glasses. I can assure you that Yemen is heading toward building the institutions of its society, practicing freedom in the economic and political spheres, and emphasizing the people's equal rights. We have no intention of retreating. The law of pluralism, which organizes political work in Yemen, rejects the establishment of any organization based on religious grounds. But any organization has the right to declare its religious principles as it wishes. These principles and slogans belong to the people. This means that no organization could act as a custodian over the people or on behalf of God. This is rejected. We went beyond this era when we ended the absolute rule of the imam and when we achieved the dream of Yemeni unity. We went even farther when we ended the despicable strife that led to the military aggression.

[Al-'ARABI] If so, then why did you allow Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Daylami to issue his fatwa [religious ruling] permitting the killing of YSP members on the grounds that they are atheists and infidels?

[Al-Lawzi] You, too, fell into the trap of a calculated propaganda ploy regarding the fatwa, which is absolutely groundless. The rebels took the speech of prominent scholar al-Daylami out of context and altered it to make it sound this way. Dr. al-Daylami came to us and asked to be given a chance to explain the lies propagated by the media. The man did refute the lies, but what could he do in the face of a public opinion based on lies? Permit me as Yemeni information minister to use your newspaper to declare that no fatwa, whether by al-Daylami or others, permitting the killing of others exists. This is rejected by the Yemeni people even before it is rejected by you in Egypt. We believe it was part of a conspiracy against the unity and democracy in Yemen.

[AL-'ARABI] Then how would you explain the massive Islamic conference in Yemen that brought together 300 leading Islamic figures and announced recommendations regarding Yemen's future?

[Al-Lawzi] Any organization or group may organize a conference to discuss things. These people met for a debate and issued recommendations. Is this binding on anyone? Do they constitute a Yemeni parliament or a government? If these recommendations became the views of the authority, a government statement would be issued and then we could deal with them; then you would have reason to be concerned.

[AL-'ARABI] We are talking about an Islamic movement that is aware of its political goals in the Arab world and seeks to take power in the Arab countries, including Yemen.

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[Al-Lawzi] Nonetheless, the Yemeni Government has close ties with the Algerian Government, which is facing terrorism under a religious slogan. We also have close relations with Sudan. Everything in our relations with Sudan, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia affirms that the Yemeni leadership has vision, realizes its tasks and the requirements of establishing balanced relations, and can shoulder the burdens of safeguarding Yemeni interests. There is no veto on relations between Yemeni parties and other parties, even if these parties or organizations are in the opposition and not in the coalition. There is a provision in the government coalition agreement that serves foreign relations and cooperation between the parties that signed the agreement and the other organizations and parties because this concerns the Yemeni Government [as published]. Perhaps this is one of the problems that triggered the conflict, because the YSP deviated from these boundaries to pursue plotting.

[AL-'ARABI] You issued a general amnesty after the end of the war. Does this include the 16 YSP leaders who are wanted?

[Al-Lawzi] These 16, or those who are still alive, have a right to benefit from this general amnesty. The amnesty covers them and all the rebels and helpless people who realize the established reality in Yemen: unity and democracy.

[AL-'ARABI] Devastation and destruction have affected everything in Yemen: The military and economic infrastructure and the daily life of the people. How will you reconstruct Yemen?

[Al-Lawzi] This is true. Devastation has wrought havoc in everything. The blood of victims cannot be compensated. However, I believe that what is said about the losses of the war is by far more than what really happened. I cannot give figures that I don't have. Counting the death toll and assessing the destruction are continuing. The material losses are considerable and compensating for them requires not only funds and resources but also time. We can cut short the time; pool our resources; and exploit our oil, natural, and touristic wealth. The rebels prevented us from exploiting this wealth before. The Yemeni Culture Ministry granted licenses to establish 180 tourist investment projects, mostly in Aden, Hadhramaut, Ta'izz, and Sanaa. Unfortunately, the political and security conflict barred the implementation of these projects.

[AL-'ARABI] Party and tribal loyalty in the Armed Forces was a serious cause for the eruption of the situation.

[Al-Lawzi] We are currently seeking to make the Armed Forces an establishment that directly follows the state. No party or tribal entity should have a military power. We believe that there is a need to transform the Armed Forces into an establishment that emphasizes national unity.

[AL-'ARABI] Is Yemen at the threshold of a constitutional change?

[Al-Lawzi] We have agreed on certain constitutional amendments aimed at achieving the required goals, such as local rule in the governorates. These amendments will be made.

[AL-'ARABI] Is there any intention to change the name of the YSP?

[Al-Lawzi] This is up to the brothers in the party. I have learned that they decided this before the war. They can free themselves of this name, which has become associated with suspicions about plotting against Yemeni unity.

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Bulgarian National Assembly Member Visiting

Meets Assembly Speaker

JN0208193294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Aug (INA)—Iraqi National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today received Bulgarian National Assembly member Zakhari Zakharev [name as transliterated], who is currently visiting the country.

They reviewed the existing cooperation between Iraq and Bulgaria in parliamentary areas and ways to promote them for the benefit of both friendly peoples.

The meeting was attended by the Bulgarian charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, Zakhari Zakharev hailed the achievements Iraq has made in construction areas despite the economic blockade and the limited Iraqi potentials.

He also stated that the Iraqis' achievements are a source of pride for other nations, and said the Iraqi people insist on projecting their creativity, which the blockade failed to stop. This creativity, he added, is demonstrated by the great Saddam Bridge that is considered a great construction achievement.

Zakharev added that the economic blockade has not only affected Iraq negatively but also Bulgaria as a result of the magnitude of the trade and cultural exchange between the two countries.

Says Losing $5 Billion a Year

JN0308104394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA)—Professor Zakhari Zakharev [name as transliterated], member of the Bulgarian National Assembly, has reiterated that the anti-Iraq sanctions cost Bulgaria $5 billion in losses per year.

In statements to the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, the Bulgarian deputy added that these losses are sustained by Bulgarian firms that were tied to Iraq through commitments and contracts. He commended the Iraqi people's steadfastness in the face of the challenges, as well as their self-reliance and self-confidence.

The Bulgarian deputy condemned the U.S. policy toward world peoples and states that pursue independent national policies. He also urged Washington to reconsider the principle of imposing sanctions on free peoples.

Prof. Zakhari Zakhariev added that the aim of his visit is to maintain the discussions between the Bulgarian National Assembly and the Iraqi National Assembly that began in April 1993 regarding bilateral economic activities and projects.

Agriculture Minister Receives Turkish Delegation

JN0208171294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Aug (INA)—Agriculture Minister Karim Hasan Rida met today with a delegation representing Turkish companies.

Discussions centered on the possibility of having Turkish companies supply Iraq with various agricultural products.

Malih Wahid Uglu, director of the Turkish Mica company, [name of official and company as received] said Turkish companies hope that the economic siege imposed on Iraq will be lifted so they can resume their operations. He noted that the companies have sustained heavy losses.

Saudi Efforts To 'Tempt' Turkey Alleged

JN0308062394 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 27 Jul 94 p 2

["Standpoint" column by Hadi Tu'mah: "This Disgraceful Saudi Role"]

[Text] It is no longer unusual for Saudi Arabia and its supporters to gear up their energies with the approach of every review of Resolution 687. This is so obvious that it has reached the point where they are trying to outbid the Zionists and NATO. So, it is not unusual for the Saudi rulers to intensify their hostility against Iraq more than others whenever there are signs of a trend to lessen the restrictions of the unfair blockade.

Many positions brand these rulers with utter disgrace. The vast sums they have spent on aggression and on buying the policies of states which have "the veto" have been paid with Arab oil funds, which are supposed to be spent in the interest of the Arab masses.

In addition, these rulers were very enthusiastic about including the Zionists with the Americans and NATO in the military aggression against the Iraqi people and their awakening in order to inflict the greatest damage on Iraq and its increasing power and to restore the gap in the balance of power in the region.

What has happened, and is happening, in the Arab and Palestinian arenas is clear evidence of the outcome of the disgraceful Saudi role in the aggression on Iraq which, by all standards, was an aggression against the Arab nation.

Now that there are signs of re-operating the Iraqi oil pipeline across Turkey and the possibility of Iraq obtaining financial revenues which would help lessen the pressure of the blockade on its people, the Saudi rulers have rushed crazily forward with donations from Arab oil funds, hoping to tempt the Turkish Government to withdraw the request it made to the Security Council.

The Saudi rulers are not only persisting in doing harm to Iraq and its people and spearheading the U.S. economic

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war, which is an alternative to the Cold War, against Iraq, the Arab nation, and world states, but are actually waging a war on behalf of the Zionists and imperialists, who have turned to tackling their own affairs. The disgraceful stands adopted by the Saudi rulers against Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, and Libya are branding proofs that they are the "ugly face" in this reckless war and that they are Zionists hiding beneath the Arab cloak they have disgraced.

Information Minister Confers With PLO's Hurani

JN0208174894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Aug (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has received PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani.

During their meeting, they discussed the Arab situation and developments on the Palestine question.

Ramadan Receives Popular Forces Conference Official

JN0208184194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Aug (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has said that throughout their lengthy history, free Arabs have rejected subservience, humiliation, and all forms of occupation and colonialism, and that through their solidarity they have managed to liberate the Arab territories desecrated by the colonialists.

Speaking at a meeting with Mashhur Hadithah, assistant secretary of the Popular Forces Conference, Ramadan added that Arabs are regaining the confidence in their nation's future by virtue of the genuine and courageous pan-Arab positions taken by the Arab leader, President Saddam Husayn.

The vice president indicated that what the Iraqis have achieved while confronting the most hideous economic aggression—which has been going on for more than four years—as well as the triumph in the battle for Yemeni unity and the defeat of the secessionists along with those who supported them and plotted against Yemeni unity, are bright features in the Arab homeland.

Hadithah stated that what the Iraqis have achieved under President Saddam Husayn in terms of standing fast against aggression and continuing the march of defiance, construction, and progress reflect the Arab individual's nature and ability to achieve victory, resist enemies, and foil all colonialist schemes.

Minister Offers Industrial Technology Aid to Sudan

JN0308063194 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 27 Jul 94 p 4

[Text] Industry and Mineral Resources Minister Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan has affirmed Iraqi industrial establishments' readiness to offer modern technological expertise to our Sudanese brothers, in fulfillment of the principles of industrial integration between both fraternal countries.

At a meeting yesterday with Sudanese Trade and Industry Minister Taj al-Sirr Mustafa and members of his delegation, Gen. Hasan said Iraq has succeeded in expanding and developing its industrial base after implementing several industrial projects within the development process currently being witnessed by the country under the wise leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn.

The industrial sector, Gen. Hasan added, has seem a major development, depending on national expertise and capabilities, which has also helped other major state sectors. He pointed out that Iraqis are currently implementing the biggest factory in Iraq for the production of manufacturing tools such as machines and equipment. He explained that there are 40 design and research centers for developing the industrial base in the country.

The meeting was attended by Lieutenant General Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization.

Ekeus on Future of Monitoring, Compliance

94LH0081A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Jul 94 p 5

[Interview of Rolf Ekeus, chief of the Special Comittee for the Elimination of Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction, by Khalil Matar in New York; date not given]

[Text] The chief of the Special Comittee for the Elimination of Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction, Rolf Ekeus, has become a prime symbol of the international community's treatment of Iraq. It is his opinion that both sides want to use him politically, and he does not object to that. Thus Ekeus speaks of the "political reality" that the Iraqis refuse to acknowledge, in addition to their refusal to acknowledge their absence of credibility with everyone.

In this exclusive interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the international official speaks frankly about the situation he is facing and dealing with.

The text of the interview follows:

Inspection and Monitoring

[Matar] What are you doing now? Where are you in terms of continuous monitoring?

[Ekeus] We must continue in the process of searching for the necessary information about the former programs, in order to initiate continuous monitoring. There is, of course, the information which Iraq has revealed to us, but we may have no means of verifying it, and that puts us in an extremely difficult position. Should we trust Iraq or not? That is our problem, and we are doing everything we can, using conventional and unconventional means, to investigate.

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[Matar] But you have said many times, in the Security Council and outside it, that you have practically completed the inspection processes, despite the fact that two countries have not given you the facilities to inspect some of the data. To what extent might this problem possibly become an obstacle to the continuous inspection you want by this coming September?

[Ekeus] We see this issue differently from the Iraqis. We believe that the setting up of the monitoring system will not necessarily be suspended merely because of a lack of the cooperation of some. Despite that, we have not had a clear picture of the former equipment, so investigating that would be difficult at the present time. This information is vital to the future of Iraqi armament; it includes the means of obtaining weapons, and this further complicates our control, because of the lack of complete information.

There is also the problem of lack of trust in the Iraqis. A cohesive monitoring system has been put in place, and naturally this system does not consist solely of individual elements. It is an integrated system for inspection, monitoring, and analysis. There is a principle of monitoring and inspection whose like, I believe, has never been seen.

In spite of that, I must point out an encouraging thing, which is that the Iraqis are not currently impeding the process of setting up the monitoring system, as they had before.

[Matar] But the Iraqis can tell you, at any time, to stop and leave, isn't that so?

[Ekeus] Yes, that could happen in a single day.

[Matar] You mentioned that the monitoring would begin in September. Are you saying that all the elements will be integrated to start monitoring in that month?

[Ekeus] No. What I am saying is that work in principle may start in September, because the system will not be complete at that time. There is of course some equipment set up for monitoring monitor long-range missiles. And there are some other elements we are finished with, but we still have the problem of the human factor, and that is our problem currently.

[Matar] Are you setting September for the start of monitoring?

[Ekeus] We are saying, that's the time, yes, despite the problems.

[Matar] Even though you have not yet investigated the information provided by the Iraqis?

[Ekeus] We must make sure that the monitoring system is effective. Theoretically, we have set up a very new system, but it is rather like building a certain machine without knowing whether it works very well before pressing the start button, even though the blueprint shows that it is excellent. Our hope is to begin then. We must see how it works, because this system is not confined in its operation to the special committee and the International Atomic Energy Agency. There are observers who will be working as part of the system. If you went to a given installation, you have to make sure of many elements, that the cameras are working, but we still have to talk to the director of the installation and get production details from him, the materials, funds, and financial aspects, and where the engineers are. A large part of this mission is the Iraqis' responsibility, as they must submit reports to us on these activities. This is a big issue.

[Matar] How effective is monitoring without knowing this information?

[Ekeus] Of course, there will be a big gap, and we hope to fill it soon.

[Matar] But, in spite of that, you will start monitoring in September.

[Ekeus] Yes, we will begin in September.

[Matar] And with it will begin what you call the testing phase?

[Ekeus] Of course, and we will see how this system works.

[Matar] One year ago, you set off a bomb by saying that the lifting of the oil embargo would occur within six months of Iraq's accepting continuous monitoring, but—?

[Ekeus] The Iraqis hated that statement at the time, but they began to grow fond of it in time. Our plan was clear. If you read Article 22 of Resolution 687, which deals with Iraq's duties, and look at the word monitoring, you will see that it says constant, "continous" monitoring, and this means for an unspecified term; the Security Council would define it. This means it may be said that Iraq will never fulfill its duties. In order to help Iraq, and to give it some hope, we spoke of a time limit which—so we can be fair with Iraq—could assess what Iraq had done up to that time.

On this basis the time limit was six months, but we said it was the minimum time—*at least* six months, that is—we did not say just six months, as some delegations in the Security Council are saying.

[Matar] What is the time period, in your opinion?

[Ekeus] We find ourselves talking about six months, but we are not saying that six months is enough. It is a period in which to see whether the system is effective, and for us to assess matters at that time.

Iraq Has No Credibility

[Matar] At that time, will you consider that the gap in the consistency of the data on the former programs constitute an obstacle?

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[Ekeus] Monitoring consists of two parts: the past and the future. I think I am in fair in saying that Iraqi credibility is lacking. I think that they can regain it in this period; they are not truthful in their behavior, but we recall that it is hard to verify them when they say that they found sound documents, while others have disappeared. We know that some of the documents our inspectors took in the parking lot incident in front of the Irrigation Ministry, and I told the Council repeatedly that I do not believe that all the financial documents had been turned over—the rest were burned.

[Matar] But can't you find some of these documents in foreign banks the Iraqis do business with?

[Ekeus] We are now working on that with friendly governments.

[Matar] Friendly to Iraq?

[Ekeus] Friendly to us.

[Matar] In the Council they are talking about two countries that still have not cooperated with you in terms of verifying some of the information.

[Ekeus] One country at least.

[Matar] Which one?

[Ekeus] Don't ask me about that. There may be political danger to that country.

[Matar] What is preventing it from cooperating?

[Ekeus] I do not know. This country knows itself and its own interests and may be opening itself up to great awkwardness, especially with regard to officials in cabinet positions, such as the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Defense, and others.

[Matar] You have been used politically on many occasions by numerous parties who want to exploit you politically. To what extent is your mission a political one?

[Ekeus] It is political, as you say, because Iraq and the Council members sometimes want to use us politically. Of course, the Council does that due to conflicts among its members, and they use us to solve those conflicts. The first thing they do when they take sides is to quote our reports, which it is their right to assess and validate. Naturally, there are stages of assessment, and when they ask us to make an assessment we must do so. When he [not identified] looks at the President of the Council during a closed session and ask us to answer questions, I cannot refuse, and the Council compels us to be political. Thus we become part of the political game, but with our basic goal in front of our eyes: the Council resolutions we cannot get away from.

Here one might give specific interpretations of Resolution 687, and perhaps some have accused us of offering very broad interpretations, especially when we speak of the trust and credibility level. There is what Iraq faces when it refuses to accept some resolutions or elements, as happened in October of last year, when the Iraqis refused to accept inspection until the Council pressured them and made the Iraqis yield, then there was acceptance of Resolution 715 as a condition for monitoring, until they gave in. In other words, we are at certain times defining the political framework.

Iraq, Kuwait, and 833

[Matar] Now the goal is 833, and you have mentioned it in statements.

[Ekeus] Yes, I have mentioned that, but in the context of taking part in an effort to understand the situation in the Council. When I spoke, it was reflecting my impressions of the policies of 15 countries—the Council members.

[Matar] There are those in the Council who say that however much Iraq cooperates with the special committee, it does not mean a thing as long as Baghdad has not accepted Resolution 833, and solving all the problems relating to Kuwait.

[Ekeus] Some Council members say that we must now focus on other issues not related to armament. But that does not mean that we as a committee will forget the former programs and schedule monitoring preparations.

[Matar] Iraq is trying to implement a trade game with you by trying to swap recognition of Kuwait and Resolution 833 for some movement from the Council on armament—to what extent are these two issues linked?

[Ekeus] Iraq wants to see a specific interpretation of Article 22, but the political reality is very different.

[Matar] But they are trying to barter.

[Ekeus] What I want to say is that the issue is basically linked to the political reality, and not merely to carrying out the resolutions or parts of them. I must also say that the implementation of the resolutions through our mission will reflect positively on the political reality. If they don't do that, there will be a significant political effect. I think Iraq has adopted this theory as its policy in the current crisis.

[Matar] There are also those who say to you, 'Give us something from the Council to make our Kuwait mission easier,' and there are still others who say that as soon as Iraq's oil is on the global market, it will forget the resolutions and stop cooperating—right?

[Ekeus] This is a problem of Iraqi credibility.

[Matar] Are the Iraqis aware of this?

[Ekeus] No, I don't think so. I've had to remind them of it many times, with utter frankness. They don't like hearing it, but it's the truth.

[Matar] Is that an obstacle for you?

[Ekeus] It certainly is an obstacle, but I think the practical way of dealing with it is through daily action

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and laying the foundations of new and excellent relations, so that Iraq can be a virtual player on the team.

[Matar] Are they (the Iraqis) capable of becoming a player on the team?

[Ekeus] I don't know. Today I was reading a press report about how Iraq wants peace with its Arab neighbors, but my interpretation is that the position of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, and their efforts, especially through the Damascus Declaration group, is a severe blow to them (the Iraqis).

Retreat of the Iraqi Menace

[Matar] After these years of working, and the evolving political conditions, what kind of danger might Iraq represent to the region at present?

[Ekeus] There is no great danger. There is, of course, the conventional danger from the conventional military structure, whose outer significance is offset by the current qualitative development of military technology.

In any case, their military threat diminishes with their great political weakness, their total isolation, the absence of any influence or power abroad, the loss of any mass political rhetoric, which attracted some Arab peoples at a certain stage, such as Nasirite rhetoric, and this has largely dwindled. We are noticing the radical change in Iraq's foreign political language, stemming originally from its political and military weakness. We no longer see threatening statements and calls for huge popular demonstrations, because it knows that no one will respond. This is apart from its domestic conduct, which has not made it loved or popular among the ordinary Iraqis in the street.

Of course, it still has influence domestically, because of its policy against the Iraqis, but it has absolutely no weight globally. It will not be able to obtain any Arab or international support, politically or diplomatically, nothing like what the GCC states have obtained. Without the Arabs, it cannot have any weight, in spite of what remains of the nonaligned states or those of the Islamic Conference. It is noteworthy that its envoys to these countries only rarely obtain any support—all they get is the minimum of attention, so that it may be said that it is merely courteous or cordial treatment. The sole future power of Iraq is in its resemblance to Germany, this is, the focus on economic and human resources.

Russia, France, and Iraq

[Matar] But its relations with Russia seem to be excellent, considering the domestic political factors in Russia.

[Ekeus] There are some dissidents in Russia, and the current leadership is trying to deal with them cautiously, but I do not share your opinion.

[Matar] This despite the fact that the Russians are trying to make it appear that they are adopting Iraqi positions?

[Ekeus] The Russians are experiencing labor pains at the present time, but don't forget that Russia is trying to use Iraq as part of the balance-of-power game in the surrounding region. This can happen only if Iraq remains unified and cohesive in the face of Iran specifically, and of course, the Russians want them as friends, for that reason; but as well-mannered, not mischevious friends. That is, they want a relatively strong Iraq—I say relatively, only, not as it was before.

[Matar] May your words be taken to mean that Iraq cannot be unified against Iran without being strong?

[Ekeus] Within the standards of European security, it may maintain a type of acceptable conventional strength.

[Matar] But facing the Iranian threat in the 1980's led, in one way or another, to the invasion of Kuwait in 1990. Might one not worry about that happening again?

[Ekeus] The invasion of Kuwait was carried out with conventional, not atomic weapons, of course, but it would not have happened without the existence of the nuclear and chemical background, and other factors, as support.

[Matar] Do the Russians and French know more about Iraq than the Americans do, or is their view more strategic than the Americans' view?

[Ekeus] No. But the strategic situation in the region, economically, for America's allies, such as Japan and Germany, in addition to the political negotiating process between the Arabs and Israel, and others—all these are factors more important to the Americans than to others.

Partition

[Matar] Are there really those who want to partition Iraq? We have heard lots of theories, but no one has pursued this policy so far.

[Ekeus] No, I don't think so. Of course, there was a stage after the liberation of Kuwait when some people interpreted the strikes against Saddam as an attempt to partition Iraq into north and south. But that is untrue.

[Matar] To what extent do you think Russia and France will continue to adopt the Iraqi position, and resist the United States?

[Ekeus] I don't think that will happen for a long time. They have lost hope of changing the situation.

[Matar] Does that mean that you will not face substantial pressure in September?

[Ekeus] You will see the beginning of some change in September.

[Matar] On whose part? The United States?

[Ekeus] I didn't say towards lifting the sanctions, but a change from the current policy to a very slightly different policy.

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They note that Saddam Husayn is not the same person he was. The Saddam of 1994 is not the Saddam of January 1991; he has substantially diminished from that great figure to a mere small armed man, incapable of anything. Of course, they will continue to build him up in the media, but he no longer has any influence.

[Matar] There are those who say that Baghdad is actually building on your efforts for a six-month testing period, after which the oil embargo would be lifted, and there are those who say that the Iraqi leadership is convinced there will be no lifting of sanctions, and that on that basis it is building a certain popular base as the engine of its rule, which means that Baghdad might tell you, "Stop," and then ask you to leave, as they have threatened to do in the past.

[Ekeus] I think that both positions are correct. I don't think anything will change. The question is, when will change occur? Most analysts believe change will happen later on. It might be useful for us to work at implementing the plan. The Council was successful, for once in its history, in a certain issue, and it should not frustrate this success through a sort of time mechanism.

[Matar] But you agree that as soon as Iraq starts to sell oil, it will stop cooperating with you.

[Ekeus] Of course, naturally.

[Matar] So how will you restore sanctions at that time?

[Ekeus] This is a problem, and this is why we say that Iraq must disclose its former programs, and the documents it says don't exist. At that time there can be something given in exchange. It would be in Iraq's interest to keep on cooperating.

[Matar] To what extent would you be damaged if Iraq asks you to cease your mission and leave?

[Ekeus] We would leave, of course, but I think there would be a severe punishment for Iraq, and an extremely harsh reaction.

[Matar] Don't you think Saddam would carry out his threats?

[Ekeus] No, not at the present time.

French Correspondent Views Relations

BR0208131294 Paris LIBERATION in French 2 Aug 94 p 17

[Report by Baghdad correspondent Jean-Pierre Perrin: "Washington and Baghdad Prepare for Post-Embargo Period"]

[Text] The European businessmen following each other out to the Iraqi capital may well be wiping their feet with pleasure on George Bush's picture and, by extension, on American economic interests when they get back to their hotel. At the entrance to the Rashid Hotel, there is a mosaic depicting the former American head of state with vampire teeth. To enter the hotel, one cannot help but wipe one's feet on the president's face and read the caption saying that the man is "a criminal."

"Let us not be mistaken," insisted a charge d'affaires, who asked to remain anonymous, posted to Baghdad, "the Iraqis actually dream of reestablishing links with the Americans and prefer to count on them for signing contracts."

Officially, of course, the United States is still Saddam Husayn's absolute enemy. It is the United States which has blocked every decision by the UN Security Council to loosen the multisided embargo that is strangling Iraq, especially the oil embargo which prevents it from exporting part of its crude oil. On 18 July, the Security Council, in the absence of an agreement among its 15 members, once again automatically renewed the sanctions for 60 days. France, China, and Russia once again asked the United Nations to acknowledge Baghdad's recent progress on disarmament, but their request ran into opposition from Washington and, to a lesser extent, from London.

Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, felt that it was "premature to initiate a discussion" to determine "whether Iraq's intentions are peaceful." "The cooperation (with the United Nations) seen so far will end as soon as Iraq is able to sell its oil on the world market," she added. Nobody in Baghdad is anticipating the imminent lifting of the embargo: "At best, not before the middle of next year," the same charge d'affaires said. Although the Clinton administration wants to maintain sanctions against Iraq until Saddam Husayn's regime is toppled, nobody believes any more that these sanctions can cause him to fall. "First of all, who really wants him to go? Everyone is afraid of the chaos that would follow his departure and that would threaten to destroy Iraq and destabilize the entire region," the same source continued.

Officially, Washington is demanding that Baghdad first of all recognize Kuwait's sovereignty, end the repression against the Kurdish and Shiite minorities, and cooperate in findir.g the Kuwaiti civilians and military personnel lost during the Gulf War. Yet these demands are not stipulated by Security Council Resolution 715, which merely imposes an oil embargo on Iraq as long as it refuses to agree to long-term supervision of its armament, something which Baghdad ended up agreeing to in November 1993. Stopping off in Paris, a senior U.S. official may have provided the clue to America's tough line. Speaking anonymously to a few journalists, he justified the maintenance of the oil embargo by fears of a fresh drop in the price of crude if Iraq were to come back onto the market. If the embargo were lifted, Iraqi production could reach between 1.5 and 2 million barrels per day, rising to some 3 million barrels per day in 18 months. The result of this would be a drop in the price per barrel and extra difficulties for Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Algeria. These statements led Iraqi Deputy

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Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, responsible for relations with the West, to react, accusing the United States "of wanting to maintain Saudi Arabia's and Kuwait's production in order to enable those countries to pay their contracts with U.S. companies such as ATT and Boeing."

Thanks to its highly flexible position, France would appear to have the wind in its sails for winning a number of upcoming contracts once the embargo is lifted. Visits by Iraqi officials to Paris have multiplied in recent months. Tariq 'Aziz visited Paris back in October, officially for health reasons, but in actual fact for policy discussions: He secretly met with [French Interior Minister] Charles Pasqua. An "Iraqi interests section" was then opened at the Moroccan Embassy in Paris. On the French side, the Quai d'Orsay [Foreign Ministry] began its search for a charge d'affaires for Baghdad. The Iraqis then announced that an agreement had been concluded with Elf Aquitaine and Total to exploit the enormous oil fields on the islands of Majnun and Nahir Umr [as published] (Iraq owns the world's second largest oil reserves after Saudi Arabia).

However, Iraq's enormous civilian debt to France—some 40 billion francs—is likely to force French companies to set up in Iraq without a guarantee from COFACE [French Insurance Company for Foreign Trade]. Furthermore, there is a prevailing impression that the Baghdad regime is seeking to up the ante among the various countries that are preparing to fight for the Iraqi market. The oil agreements between Baghdad and French oil companies are merely letters or protocols of intent which can always be renegotiated. The diplomats feel that there is no doubt that Iraq first of all wants the sanctions to be lifted and the large American oil companies to return. To this end, highly secret discussions are under way with these companies in Amman, Jordan.

U.S. Editorial Seen Hastening Embargo's End

JN0308105394 Baghdad INA in English 0840 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Washington, Aug 3, INA—The U.S. NEW YORK TIMES newspaper on Monday [1 August] expedited an end to the international sanctions imposed on Iraq since 1990.

In its leader, the paper said, on basis of the U.N Security Council provisions, oil embargo should be lifted by next spring and thus to resume Iraqi oil sales .

The U.S and British denial of Iraq's cooperation with the U.N resolutions and their searching for conditions, other than those mentioned in the U.N resolutions to justify the lingering of sanctions, meant nothing but the two states seeking to change the U.N rules.

The U.S paper shed light on the recent UNSCOM [United Nations Special Commission] report which had stated a commission's anticipated declaration of Iraq's full cooperation with the international resolutions over a six-month verification period, should the monitoring operation proceeded smoothly.

The paper's leader sharply criticized the Clinton administration misinterpretation of the Gulf war cease-fire resolution, a text of which was mapped out by the U.S itself during the Ex-President George Bush's tenure.

Press Marks Anniversary of Kuwait Invasion

JN0208133394 Baghdad INA in English 1000 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 2, INA—Iraq papers for today hailed the Call Day anniversary [of the 2 August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait] describing it as a luminous point on the path of rising against all conspiratorial schemes to undermine Iraq.

AL-'IRAQ daily said in an article marking the occasion, that the Call Day was a firm retaliation against plans to steal the victory accomplished by Iraq in Saddam Qadisiyah Battle [Iran-Iraq war].

The paper said Iraqi warriors, Arab masses and honorable people of the world would always regard with great appreciation this prominent event because it represented the Arabs' firm rejection of any dubious plan to deprive them of their right to decent living.

AL-'IRAQ went on to say, that following Iraq's great victory in 1988 and its abortion of Iran's objectives throughout eight years of war, it was inevitable that the enemies would try to further their political and economic conspiracies against it.

The paper added that among these plans was the lowering of international oil price to tighten the economic belt around Iraq. This, the paper said, was a major part in the Zionist-Imperialist plan implemented by the rulers of Kuwait in coordination with the U.S. Administration which for its part imposed the economic blockade in 1990.

AL-JUMHURIYAH daily stressed in its article on the Call Day that the U.S. Administration had planned to force Iraq to plunge into an unequivalent battle in order to destroy it because Iraq had become an obstacle before realizing the U.S. objectives of seizing the oil resources.

The paper pointed out that Iraq's surprising steadfastness and resistance exposed to the world the fact that America did not desire a world in which peace, law, cooperation and respect of sovereignty prevailed but rather a world vulnerable to its greed and barbaric.

Missile Commander Assures Saddam of Loyalty

JN0208190994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn has received a cable from the fighter commander of the Surface-to-Surface Missile Corps on their annual day. In the cable, the commander pledged to his excellency that the

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destructive missiles of justice will be sharp swords against anyone who lets himself be seduced into harming the soil of dear Iraq. The cable reads:

On our annual day, 3 August, we, your faithful soldiers, the missile men, have the honor to renew our pledge to you as men who are faithful to the lofty principles of both freedom and the well-entrenched Ba'th revolution under your fluttering banner for the sake of the homeland's pride and for the nation's glory and future. We intend to achieve the objectives with which you entrust us, exactly as was the case in both the glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah and the immortal Mother of Battles.

We also pledge to you that our destructive missiles will be sharp swords against anyone who let himself be seduced into harming the soil of dear Iraq. As honest fighters, we are eager to upgrade our combat skills through serious training, so this skill will always be at your disposal to defend the homeland until the inevitable decisive victory is achieved. We pray to God Almighty to preserve you as an asset to both Iraq and all free ones against the covetous enemies.

Two Killed in New Kurdish Clashes in North

NC0208172994 Paris AFP in English 1459 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, Aug 2 (AFP)—New clashes have erupted between rival Kurdish forces in northern Iraq despite a peace agreement, leaving two dead and seven wounded, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) said Tuesday.

The KDP and the other main Kurdish party, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), accused each other of triggering the clashes which broke out Sunday in villages in the al-Sulaymaniyah region, near the Iranian border.

Iran and its supporters in the Kurdish Islamic Movement were behind the latest fighting and wanted to destroy the peace process between the Kurdish rivals, Kamal Fu'ad of the PUK charged.

On July 23, the two groups announced in Paris that they had reached agreement on ending their feud, with new elections to be held in May 1995 and the reorganisation of Kurdish armed forces.

But their leaders, Mas'ud Barzani of the KDP and the PUK's Jalal Talabani, have yet to sign the agreement.

The KDP and PUK took over Iraqi Kurdistan in 1991, following an uprising against President Saddam Husayn after Iraqi troops were evicted from Kuwait in the Gulf War.

More than 100 people were killed in fighting between the two groups in May.

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Progress Seen in Negotiations on Golan Heights

Peres Calls For 'Secret' Talks

TA0208164794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today called on the Syrians to enter secret negotiations with Israel. The foreign minister spoke as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher prepared to arrive in Israel on Saturday night [6 August] for another shuttle mission aimed at advancing peace talks between Israel and Syria. Foreign Minister Peres also warned of problems in granting the Palestinians early empowerment in the rest of the West Bank outside of Jericho. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] After emerging from a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said he could not predict the results of the American secretary's imminent trip to the region, but he repeated that there is only way to make serious progress: secret negotiations.

[Peres] If you want to arrive to conclusion, to an achievement in the negotiations, you must negotiate on two different levels: an open level, so both nations will be convinced that we mean business, that we mean peace; and on a quiet level, a secret level, where you can air out the differences without too much sensation or too much fanfare. Otherwise, I do not believe that we shall advance seriously in the negotiations. That is what happened with the Egyptians, the Jordanians, and the Palestinians. And this is the way in my judgement, if we are serious about in concerning the Syrians, to negotiate with them.

[Ze'ev] Despite the Palestinian prediction of an imminent conclusion to the negotiations on early empowerment in the territories outside of Gaza and Jericho, Foreign Minister Peres says there are problems. Problems which stem from the elementary question, says Peres, of where the money will come from. If Israel hands over authority to the Palestinians in health and education, who will fund it, he asks rhetorically? The foreign minister said the challenge at this stage is to break our heads, in Peres' words, to find the financial solution. The foreign minister rejected PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat's demand that negotiations begin now on the status of Jerusalem. Peres says all that Israel pledged to Jordan in last week's Washington declaration was that the current Jordanian role in the holy places will continue. A Knesset official at the closed-door committee meeting says Peres accused 'Arafat of making it sound as though Israel had promised the Palestinians that they would be in charge of the holy sites. Peres said if Jordan now runs the Waqf Islamic trust, in charge of the sites, and pays the salaries, that will continue in the future. [end recording]

Rabin: 'Something Is Indeed Happening'

TA0308044994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said last night that something is indeed happening in the Syrian track of the peace negotiations, but he would not elaborate. He was speaking to Knesset Members Hashim Mahamid and Tamar Gozansky of the HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] communist list. Rabin also held consultations with a number of opposition parties to enlist their support in today's vote on the Washington Declaration.

United Torah Jewry, the Arab Democratic Party, and HADASH communists all pledged their support for the agreement with Jordan. The YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel] party has already promised to vote in favor of the declaration, and a number of Likud leaders have indicated that they too will support it. This morning, before the Knesset convenes, Rabin is to meet leaders of the National Religious Party. He is already assured of a large majority and has expressed the hope that the vote will be unanimous.

Syria Agrees on Phased Relations

TA0308092994 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Aug 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by David Makovsky and Evelyn Gordon]

[Excerpt] Syria has agreed to the principle of phasing in peaceful relations with Israel alongside a staged Israeli full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, two senior Israeli officials said yesterday.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad promised this during Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region two weeks ago, the officials said. This is what Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin meant, when he said earlier this week that Damascus has made progress on the "components of peace," but did not elaborate, according to the officials.

Christopher is scheduled to return to Jerusalem on Saturday night [6 August], in a bid to revive stalled Israel-Syrian talks. Officials say he has scheduled two trips to Damascus.

However, while the two officials say al-Asad has accepted the principle of phasing in normalization, al-Asad has yet to define fully what the term means. Rabin has publicly indicated that Syria should agree to terms similar to those accepted by Egypt at the Camp David accords, when full diplomatic relations were established after the first phase of Israel's withdrawal from Sinai.

"Al-Asad has now accepted the principle of interface between phases of withdrawal and phases of normalization," one official said, confirmed by a second senior

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official. The officials believe Rabin heard this from Christopher either in Jerusalem or while the premier was in Washington last week.

When asked for a reaction last night, a senior Clinton administration official refused to confirm or deny the report.

In May, Syria agreed to the concept of phased withdrawal, having previously insisted that Israel first withdraw totally from the Golan.

Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir said yesterday the recent peace breakthrough with Jordan should create momentum in peace talks with Damascus. There have been some signals emanating recently from Damascus suggesting greater interest in the peace process. Recently, al-Asad authorized four Syrian ministers to initiate contact with European ambassadors to find out how multilateral talks on regional cooperation with Israel are progressing, Foreign Ministry officials say.

Others note that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' issued a condemnation of terrorism in the aftermath of the Buenos Aires and London bombings, and that Syrian television aired the entire Israel- Jordan White House ceremony.

Savir called on Syria yesterday to convince the Israeli public that Damascus is ready for peace, as well as to agree to upgraded direct talks between the two countries after the Christopher visit ends. Mid-level direct-talks between the two countries stopped in February, and since then contacts have been confined to Christopher making periodic shuttles between Damascus and Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Rabin Addresses Knesset on Washington Declaration

TA0308095194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0810 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to a special session of the Knesset called to endorse the Washington Declaration ending the state of Israeli-Jordanian belligerency, in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] Honorable President, Knesset Speaker, Members of Knesset: I would like at the outset to join the speaker's praise of the two missions carried out by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the name of the State of Israel. Our joint fate with the Jewish community attacked in Argentina which resulted in a mission carried out by the IDF's first class rescue unit and the humanitarian mission to aid the Rwandan refugees in Zaire. A field hospital was set up and its entire medical staff and soldiers volunteered for the task, which is a special expression of the uniqueness of the State of Israel, the joint fate with each Jew and each Jewish community wherever they are, and the fulfillment of a humanitarian mission to people and refugees in distress and in sickness. Nothing is a better expression of the essence and uniqueness of the State of Israel. I thank all those who are currently participating in these missions or who have done so, and all those who assisted them.

We have come here today to inform the members of Knesset, the citizens of the State of Israel, and the Jewish people wherever they are, that the state of war between the State of Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has ended. We have come here today to inform the members of the Knesset and citizens of the State of Israel that we took one more significant step toward peace last week in Washington.

Members of Knesset, the Government of Israel submits to you today with satisfaction and pride the Washington Declaration signed in the U.S. capital on 25 July 1994. The four-pages submitted to the Knesset today are the gist of the dream of peace between Israel and Jordan, which we all hope and pray will turn into a full peace treaty in the coming days.

Members of Knesset, for dozens of years, all Israeli prime ministers stood on this podium and appealed to the leaders of the Arab states to end the state of belligerency and to bring peace to the peoples of the Middle East. The calls of the Israeli prime ministers were constantly repeated and sometimes even sounded empty. Over the years, they became trite announcements, which nobody took seriously any more because Cairo remained silent, Amman did not respond, and Damascus remained mum. Our hands, which were stretched out in peace, were forced to pull the trigger in the war for our continued survival here.

The first prime minister to have the honor of standing on this podium and being rewarded for his calls for peace was the late Menahem Begin, who together with the late Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat, sowed the first seeds of peace between Israel and the largest Arab state, Egypt. The belief that other Arab states would follow Egypt did not come about. Israel remained a lone voice in the wilderness. We remained in our state of isolation: two states, one peace.

The day this government was presented to the Knesset I reiterated the call to the Arab states and the Palestinians to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and to open a new chapter in the history of our peoples. To the Palestinians, who never knew a single day of freedom and happiness, we offered autonomy, with all its advantages and disadvantages. We called on the Jordanian monarch, and the presidents of Syria and Lebanon to take this podium to call for peace. The Palestinians accepted the call. We have now completed the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, and we continue the negotiations with them.

Following the Palestinians, King Husayn is now also extending his hand in peace. We must state frankly that without the agreement with the Palestinians, it would not have been possible to reach the Washington Declaration.

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Members of the Knesset, a very special and very complex link has existed for a generation between the Jewish people, and then the State of Israel, with the Hashemite dynasty and the Kingdom of Jordan—which was born out of the problem of Eretz Yisra'el. Love and hatred were intertwined in this connection. Since then we have searched for understanding with the Hashemite dynasty. Following World War I, there was the meeting between Hayim Weizmann and the Emir Faysal. Since then, a lot of water has flowed in the Jordan River and a great deal of blood has been spilled. Jordan participated in wars and hostile actions against us. The Jordanians caused us a great deal of bodily and spiritual pain. Jerusalem was cut in half and a wall was set up across its heart. Jews were prevented from reaching and praying at the Western Wall, the remnant of the temple. The 'Etzyon Bloc was destroyed, studies at Mt. Scopus university, which we reached in armed convoys, were ceased. Snipers fired into the windows of houses along the urban dividing line. People infiltrated into Israeli settlements in the Jerusalem corridor, murdering and stealing. In Jerusalem and in Amman, families weeped over the death of their beloved ones. Only in the Six-Dar War, did IDF soldiers put an end to Israel's suffering.

Members of the Knesset, it is an open secret that alongside the acts of hostility, we maintained a special relationship with the Hashemite dynasty, a relationship that King 'Abdallah, the dynasty's founder, paid for with his life. Despite the dangers, despite the hardships for the State of Israel and for Jordan, we maintained these special relations.

Very little has been revealed about these ties. We owe a great deal to those who initiated the ties with the Hashemite dynasty even before the establishment of the State of Israel. These include the late Hayim Arlosorov and Moshe Sharett, 'Ezra Danin, Aharon Hayim Hakohen, Golda Meir, Re'uven Shiloah, Ya'aqov Herzog, Eliyahu Sason, Levi Eshkol, and Yig'al Alon. All are now dead. There are also many, many others who are still living among us and to whom we owe a great deal.

Members of the Knesset, the Madrid process began in October 1991, during the term the previous government under Yitzhaq Shamir. Since then, we have had two important milestones in our relations with Jordan. First, the official and public confirmation of the agenda between Israel and Jordan in September 1993. Second, the first public meeting of its kind between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Prince Hasan and President Clinton at the White House in October 1993. During that meeting, it was decided to set up a trilateral economic committee. With time, the ties were strengthened and joint discussions were held with King Husayn, his court, and government until last week's signing of the Washington Declaration in full public view.

Members of the Knesset, the declaration placed on your desks is complete. It does not have any secret appendices or additions. You are looking at the entire document. What does the Washington Declaration contain? On the one hand, it is made up of new components, which are the basis for a full peace treaty when it is signed. On the other hand, it contains parts of the documents so far agreed upon with Jordan, headed by the agreed upon agenda signed in Washington. Other elements are derived from the agreements reached in the bilateral negotiations in Washington and the Jordanian hotel at the Dead Sea on 20 July, which included a joint declaration by the Jordanian prime minister, the Israeli prime minister, and the U.S. Secretary of state.

The main subject in the Washington Declaration is ending the state of belligerency, which is an interim stage toward the signing of a full peace treaty.

Mr. Speaker, Members of the Knesset, I must add with regard to the term included in the Washington Declaration—end of state of belligerency [previous five words in English] and its Hebrew equivalent: Seeing that the term end of state of war [previous four words in English] is included in the peace treaty with Egypt and is clear to everybody, we proposed to the Jordanians to use the latter version. However, because of their cautious ways, they decided to use the term ending the state of belligerency. In a verbal message from King Husayn we were told that as far as they were concerned the meaning was identical and that this would also find public expression. Indeed, in his speeches, both in the White House and in the U.S. Congress, the king explicitly said—and I quote from his speech at the White House on 25 July: The term used in international documents as they affected us so far is the state of belligerency and the end of the state of belligerency. I think both in Arabic and in Hebrew, our people do not have such a term. What we have accomplished, and what we are committed to, is the end of the state of war [previous six words in English] between Jordan and Israel. End of quote.

Therefore, there is no ambiguity here but a very clear message: The end of the state of war between Israel and Jordan is over. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the question of a peace treaty is clearly expressed in the document. Although the Jordanians always talk about comprehensive peace, it is specifically stated in the Washington Declaration that the purpose is to attain a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel.

Mr. Speaker, Members of the Knesset, by the nature of things the clause referring to the Muslim holy shrines in Jerusalem aroused special interest. With your permission, I would like to slightly turn back the wheel and quote from the speech I delivered to you the day I presented the current government. I quote: This government, just like all its predecessors, believes there are no differences of opinion within this House concerning the eternalness of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Jerusalem, whole and united, has been and will remain the capital of the Israeli people under Israeli sovereignty, the place every Jew yearns and dreams of. The government is resolute in its position that Jerusalem is not a negotiable issue. The coming years, too, will witness the

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expansion of construction in metropolitan Jerusalem. Every Jew, both religious and secular, vows: If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! This vow unites all of us. End of quote.

We also said then, and I quote: The government will uphold the freedom of worship of members of all other faiths in Jerusalem. It will meticulously maintain free access to the holy sites of all faiths and sects and will make a normal and comfortable life possible for all those visiting and living in it. End of quote.

In our opinion, the Jerusalem clause in the Washington Declaration created a tempest in a teacup. I suggest that people go back and read this clause. It states, and I quote: Israel—I emphasize, Israel—respects the present special role of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Muslim holy shrines in Jerusalem. When negotiations on the permanent status will take place, Israel will give high priority to the Jordanian historic role in these shrines. In addition, the two sides have agreed to act together to promote interfaith relations among the three monotheistic religions. End of quote.

What can be learned from all these? This clause mirrors the current situation, in which the Jordanians indeed play a role—even after the Six-Day War, in the 27 years that have passed since then and under all Israeli governments—in running the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem. The clause asserts that in the negotiations about the permanent status Israel will give—I emphasize, Israel will give—high priority to this Jordanian role.

I reiterate: This does not represent any concession whatsoever concerning Jerusalem or Israel's status in it and in the Jewish holy shrines. Of course, in due time, when all the holy shrines are discussed in the comprehensive negotiations about a permanent arrangement, we will consult all the religious Jewish institutions: The Religious Affairs Ministry and the Chief Rabbinate.

Mr. Speaker, Members of the Knesset, in addition to the positive statements and the commitments to continue the negotiations until they culminate in a peace treaty, the Washington Declaration contains several agreements for the implementation of practical steps to illustrate the new situation. Yesterday negotiations were held in the 'Arava concerning telephone links between us and Jordan. We are looking forward to the day, which is not far off, when we can dial Amman from Tel Aviv and vice versa. New crossing points will be opened from Jordan to Israel and vice versa. Negotiations on this issue are under way. At this point we are talking about the passage of tourists and people holding foreign passports. We believe and hope that the day is not far off when Israeli and Jordanian tourists will come and go as if this had always been the situation.

The Washington Declaration further talks about linking electricity grids, establishing an air corridor between Israel and Jordan, police cooperation to fight crime and drugs, as well as economic issues, including a commitment to abolish boycotts in the future. We will continue to discuss these and other issues—including border security, water, the environment, energy and a variety of economic issues—in the negotiations this week and in weeks to come.

Members of the Knesset, great days have descended on Israel. Even if numerous difficulties and strenuous efforts are involved, even if we go through moments of disillusion and disappointment, there is no longer any doubt in our hearts: The Arab nations have joined us on the road to peace. The road is still long, the work is not yet done, and we must complete it. King Husayn fully shares the Washington Declaration with us, as does his people. We follow their brave steps and wise and tough decisions with great hope.

Also sharing with us are, first and foremost, the American people led by U.S. President Bill Clinton, his administration officials, and members of the two houses of the U.S. Congress. Had it not been for their steadfastness, resolve, and contribution we may have not attained the signing of the Washington Declaration. From Jerusalem, we send to the President, to the U.S. people and to their representatives our heartfelt gratitude.

Members of the Knesset, there are many people in our midst who deserve our gratitude and there are many people outside our country to whom we owe our deepest thanks. As we stop at this station on the road to peace, it is a our biggest privilege and duty to remember the civilian and IDF casualties through the years, starting with the 1947 events to this day, those who cannot witness the great emotion we are feeling these days, whose eyes cannot see the tears of joy in our eyes. There are tears of grief in our eyes today for those who did not live to see this day on the road to peace. Our hearts go out today to their relatives, who would like to share our happiness but their terrible bereavement does not permit them to be joyful, to applaud, to smile. We are one today with the disabled and wounded IDF soldiers, with those civilians who for 46 years have been bearing the pains and scars of the acts of hostility on the part of Jordan.

Members of the Knesset, we have been given a great privilege to witness and share beautiful moments in the history of the State of Israel. I would like to end my speech with a verse from the First Book of the Kings, because it contains wishes for all of us: Now the Lord my God has given me rest on every side. May it be so.

On behalf of the government, I ask the Knesset to endorse the Washington Declaration.

Rabin Comments on Peace Process, Prisoner Release

TA0208133194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The prime minister said today that there is as yet no agreement to release terrorists whose hands are

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tainted with the blood of Israelis. Touring the Israel police national headquarters in Jerusalem, he said that he decided to suspend the archaeological excavations in Modi'in for fear of a violent clash, despite the fact that the digs are legal. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports:

[Begin recording] [Bushinsky] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated today that at the end of May 1996, in less than two years, talks will start between Israel, the Palestinians, and maybe other partners on all components of the permanent solution. He emphasized that Jerusalem will remain united under Israel's sovereignty and will also be its capital in the future. In this context, the prime minister said, Minister Shahal did the right thing when he conferred with Nabil Sha'th in Tel Aviv. Israel would not have agreed to such a meeting in East Jerusalem, while the PLO would have refused to hold it in west Jerusalem, he noted. [passage omitted]

Touring the Israel police national headquarters, the prime minister said that in his opinion Gaza and Jericho have become safe havens for terrorists and criminals but that it does not pose an exceptional problem. There are enough terrorists and criminals there as it is, he said, and we do not intend to reinforce police troops in order to bar the entry of terrorists who attack Israelis and find asylum in the autonomy areas.

In view of reported plans to release another nine Palestinian women, we asked the prime minister whether this could be followed at some point by the release of Palestinian prisoners whose hands are tainted with blood.

[Rabin] There is as yet no agreement with regard to terrorists whose hands are tainted with the blood of Israelis—I stress, the blood of Israelis; I do not just mean Jews, but any Israeli citizen—and at this point they are not being released.

[Bushinsky] The prime minister said no date has yet been set for a meeting with King Husayn, although there are plans to open a new border crossing from sovereign Israeli territory to Jordan.

As for Ron Arad, the prime minister said it emerged from the interrogation of Mustafa al-Dirani that in 1988 he was transferred alive to another element. Israel knows exactly who he was handed over to, the prime minister said without any further elaboration. [end recording]

Peres Rejects 'Arafat's Demand for Jerusalem Talks

TA0208134494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres rejected PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's demand to discuss the question of Jerusalem now. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports:

[Begin recording] [Nir] Jerusalem, or to be more precise, Yasir 'Arafat's demand to discuss the issue of Jerusalem *now*, featured prominently in the committee's agenda. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that 'Arafat's declarations were totally worthless. Peres spoke to reporters after emerging from the session.

[Peres] We and the PLO have an agreement, which is binding on both us and on them. Once they are signed, agreements cannot be renegotiated. Therefore, 'Arafat's demand must be categorically rejected.

[Nir] Sir, do you also detect signs of a softening in the Syrian position with regard to peace?

[Peres] I have said it before and I reiterate: I do not detect any real signs of a softening. I discern a change in the Syrian position, which reverted from their striving for strategic parity to a willingness to make a peace arrangement. However, in my opinion, Syria has not yet reached the pertinent conclusions.

On the face of it, everybody would seem to be in favor of peace. However, when you are not prepared or do not want to bear the price of peace—this is only a theoretical strategy. We want to see Syria taking one step down from this theoretical strategy to reality in the field. [end recording]

Editorials Comment on Possible Role in Haiti

Humanitarian Mission Justified

TA0208135294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Aug 94 p B1

[Editorial: "Haiti and Israel"]

[Text] In its resolution two days ago, the UN Security Council [UNSC] empowered the organization's member states to establish a multinational military force, under a unified command, in order to either drive out the dictatorial regime currently ruling Haiti or precipitate its abdication. The UNSC reached that decision after nonmilitary means had failed to achieve their goal. Actually, the UNSC has to all intents and purposes granted the U.S. Army permission to land troops in Haiti. General Raoul Cedras, the island's current ruler, expects an American invasion within shortly.

The Security Council's resolution is akin to urging all UN members to participate in the multinational force. Therefore, this appeal is also aimed at the State of Israel. It is not surprising that senior U.S. officials approached their Israeli colleagues even before the United States got its way at the Security Council, in the hope that Israel would cooperate.

According to one estimate, the U.S. officials wondered whether Israel would be prepared to buttress the U.S. expeditionary force with its own military troops. Otherwise, it is hard to understand why they discussed infantry units, supporting forces, and "perhaps even the

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Air Force," in their meetings with our representatives. Apparently, the Israeli officials replied that although all the above was out of the question, there was room to consider Israeli participation in missions of a civilian nature that would be carried out by a multinational force designed to relieve the U.S. invasion forces once the latter had concluded their mission.

The Washington administration is interested in recruiting partners for a military operation. However, even if this goal proves unachievable, the United States will not relieve the UN members of their duty to guarantee the viability of the new regime. The United States does not want to maintain a military presence in Haiti after its political goal has been reached. In Washington therefore, the talk is about a multinational force of 6,000 soldiers, which will ensure the stability of the legitimate regime after its reinstatement; and the United States has designated a role for Israel within this framework.

Can Israel turn its back to the rehabilitation and strengthening of a democratic regime, just because it is taking place across the ocean? The Security Council's resolution on Haiti is very similar to the one adopted at the time against Saddam Husayn. If our American friends, who did not want us to get involved in the Gulf war, are now asking us to assume some responsibility on behalf of the United Nations, can we turn down their request? The fact that Israeli public opinion is not particularly overjoyed about intervening in a distant land should not constitute the government's sole guideline with regard to this decision.

Nevertheless, the government is fully entitled to refuse to place IDF [Israel Defense Forces] units under foreign command for operational purposes. The IDF is heavily burdened with tasks on both the local and regional levels, and the United States can manage without it. Israel has the reputation of a country with vast experience in conducting military instruction courses in developing countries. Israel has acceded to requests from authoritarian rulers on a number of occasions, and who can guarantee us that the regime the United States, and especially the liberal elements there, would like to reinstate in Haiti, will justify the hopes pinned on it.

The new regime, if indeed established, will need help on civilian matters, and Israel should not be tightfisted if Haiti asks for instructors and experts in non-security related fields. Ignoring Haiti's needs will not win us any glory. However, the government would be well advised to remain aware that involvement can quickly turn into entanglement. We can spare some personnel for humanitarian missions, and thus be of assistance to both the United States and the United Nations; however, we should not go beyond that.

Military Involvement Opposed

TA0208130794 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Aug 94 p 2

[Editorial: "No on Haiti"]

[Text] Haiti is in the United States' backyard, so the UN umbrella for a possible military operation there should not mislead us.

This is mainly a U.S. problem, although the Americans obviously prefer to have as many partners as possible. Therefore the government's position to support a humanitarian mission after the Haitian regime is changed is correct. The Americans are welcome to that, but no more than that.

During the Gulf war the Americans saw to it that we remained in the corner of our own courtyard. They have no business looking for our help now in the case of Haiti.

We should not be misled by those who claim that the UN's attitude toward us has changed, and that consequently we should participate in its various "operations." All we needed was, for example, to get entangled in Somalia. And with all due respect to the UN, a Security Council which has Rwanda as a member is not an institution which projects security.

Jordan Weekly: Israelis Preparing To Target Iran

JN0208153094 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 1 Aug 94 p 1

[Article by retired Brigadier General Muhammad Sa'id Jumhur]

[Text] Against the backdrop of the bombing of a Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, the blowing up of a passenger plane [over Panama with Jewish businessmen on board], and a failed drive to knock out Hizballah in south Lebanon, Israel has begun planning in earnest to hit targets in Iran.

Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has made public threats that he intends to strike at the head of the snake that lends support to terrorism and Islamic fundamentalists.

Advanced F-15's are thought extremely likely to take out Iranian nuclear reactors and target the offices of Iran's political leaders and vital installations.

The U.S. Administration recently agreed to allow Israeli aircraft to pass over Iraqi airspace to execute their mission in Iran.

The operation will involve in-flight refueling and Israel's new AWACS planes.

With Iraq's military and economic wings now clipped and the state of war in the region virtually over, both the U.S. and Israeli Governments view Iran as the only remaining Middle East power posing a threat to their national security.

The United States believes Iran is planning for the eventual revival of the old Persian Empire that once held sway between the Indian Ocean and the Atlantic—an eventuality at cross purposes with Washington's strategy

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to redraw the Middle East map in the wake of the signing of the peace treaties and Russia's retreat from the world stage.

The United States also holds against Iran the latter's attempts to export the Islamic revolution and support for anti-West Islamic fundamentalists overseas. Beyond that, the United States has a vested interest in promoting pro-Western Islamic regimes and controlling oil wells in the Arab vicinity.

U.S. Said To Alert on DPRK-Iran Missile Deal

TA0308051694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Iran has called on many countries to step up security at its legations, and its request has been accepted, according to information reaching Israel from several Latin American countries. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the Iranians explained that they fear their representations will be targets for attack.

The United States has informed Israel that there is a North Korean-Iranian deal to sell Nodong missiles, which have a 1,000 km range, but the Americans do not have any confirmation that the missiles have arrived in Iran. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the information was transferred in the strategic talks with Israel last week.

Protest of British Consul's Remarks Filed

TA0208124794 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Aug 94 pp 1, 19

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] Britain's Consul in Jerusalem Richard Dalton last week compared Israel's treatment of the Palestinians in the territories with the way the Nazis treated the citizens of the countries they occupied. He also compared the activities of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the territories with the acts of the underground resistance against the Nazi occupation in World War II.

Dalton was speaking at a closed meeting of friends of the British Labor Party, currently on tour of Israel.

The grave remarks were brought to the attention of the Foreign Ministry and yesterday, Yehuda Milo, deputy director general for European affairs, lodged an official protest with John White, charge d'affairs of the British Embassy in Israel. Milo demanded that White provide an explanation of the grave remarks attributed to the British consul.

Opposition to Sale of U.S. Satellite to Saudis

TA0208115294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Aug 94 p A1

[Report by Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] The U.S. administration has requested Israel acquiesce to the sale of an American photo-reconnaissance satellite to Saudi Arabia. The United States has asked Israel not to muster opposition to the deal in Washington. The deal includes, in addition to the satellite itself, various accessory equipment. Israel expressed immediate opposition to the deal, claiming that if such a satellite is sold to Saudi Arabia Israel's qualitative edge would be harmed.

Israel was surprised by the very fact that the administration agreed to negotiate such a deal with Saudi Arabia. Different reports were published in the past, according to which various U.S. companies are interested in selling a photo-reconnaissance satellite to Gulf states. It was assumed, however, that these reports were part of a business promoting campaign stemming from the growing competition in the satellite and satellite-launcher field. Now, however, it transpires that the negotiations with Riyadh are at an advanced stage, and that the U.S. Administration is a party to them.

From the U.S. request it transpires that in addition to Saudi Arabia, other Gulf states may take part in the purchase of the satellite. Obviously, Saudi Arabia will also be able to relay satellite photos of various Israeli targets to other Arab countries. As a result of this the purchase of such a satellite could give the Arabs an intelligence capability which they do not currently have.

Israel regards the U.S. effort as a negative step, because selling a photo-reconnaissance satellite to an Arab state constitutes a qualitative leap for the Arab side and will change the balance of power between the sides to Israel's disadvantage. This move would clearly breach a promise given by several U.S. Presidents to maintain Israel's qualitative edge. Such a promise was given by President Clinton himself, as stated by several senior U.S. officials during testimonies to Congress committees.

Israel has been trying to build its own photo-reconnaissance satellite for the last few years. Since the first test launch of this satellite, however, the U.S. Administration has made efforts to prevent Israel from purchasing in the United States various components required for building the satellite.

It should be noted that Saudi Arabia is maintaining distinct negative stands toward the peace process. Its representatives to the Regional Security and Arms Control Committee embrace extremist positions and are have torpedoed various proposals for regional cooperation. During the last meeting, held in Qatar, The Saudis were the most extremist, dragging the Palestinians behind them.

To date Saudi Arabia has also refused a UN request to report its military imports and exports. Of the region's countries, only Israel and Egypt participate in the UN register of weapons exports and imports.

In addition to this, Saudi Arabia is firmly opposed to the participation of an Israeli company, Ordan, in a U.S.

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tender for the building of carriers for Patriot missiles which Riyadh is purchasing. All appeals to the administration, including meetings of Congressmen with Prince Bandar, the Saudi ambassador in Washington, have failed to produce a change in this Saudi position.

Clarifications Requested on Waldheim Knighthood

TA0308052294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Israel has asked the Vatican to clarify reports that it awarded former Austrian President Kurt Waldheim a papal knighthood for his work as UN secretary general. The Anti-Defamation League reported that last month the Vatican's representative in Vienna presented the decoration and cited Waldheim for safeguarding of human rights. Here in Israel, Foreign Ministry officials have expressed shock noting Waldheim's Nazi past.

Rabin, Peres Reconciliation Said To 'Fail' Test

TA0208141894 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Text] The reconciliation meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday ended with a series of conditional agreements that will probably fail the test of reality. Foreign Minister Peres said after meeting that "work procedures were determined which will allow us to continue working together in the future for the promotion of the peace process." The prime minister and his spokesmen refused to comment on the minutes of the meeting.

The Rabin-Peres meeting was held with the mediation and participation of Attorney Giyora 'Eyni, the Labor Party "confidant," and lasted some 90 minutes. Rabin and Peres held separate meetings with 'Eyni on Sunday [31 July]. Last night, 'Eyni again held a 15-minute meeting with the prime minister, before Peres joined them. At the end of the meeting, it was reported that it was held in a good atmosphere. The discussion focused on two issues: The foreign minister's demand to assume a leading role in the peace process with the Palestinians and the neighboring countries to match his status and official title; and the foreign minister's complaints regarding the abusive treatment he received from the prime minister last week during the work on and signing of the Washington Declaration.

In the meeting, the foreign minister complained that, over the past several weeks, he and his office have been pushed out of the political process; that the talks with the Palestinians are being conducted by Army officers; and that the talks with Jordan were conducted by persons who directly answer to the prime minister. The foreign minister also demanded solid promises that he will be a senior and active member on the team negotiating with Syria.

For his part, Rabin reminded Peres that, when the government was first established, the two agreed that Rabin will be in charge of peace negotiations on the bilateral tracks, while Peres and the Foreign Ministry will assume control over all of the multinational tracks. The prime minister stressed that, in view of this understanding, he will continue managing the contacts with Syria, Jordan, and the PLO, while Peres will continue attending the forum of the Israeli, Jordanian, and U.S. foreign affairs ministers. Rabin also promised that Peres will be made a full partner to any future moves—a somewhat vague promise that will have to stand daily tests in the future.

It was further agreed that if in the future any of the parties would have any grievances, they will be settled in a tete-a-tete meeting or, should the need arise, Giyora 'Eyni will be called in to mediate. Incidentally, 'Eyni has 12 years of experience in mediating between the two.

Regarding the prime minister's claims against the foreign minister on the personal level, Rabin asserted that not all the reports in the press about his remarks against Peres were published with his consent. When he was asked by reporters last night whether the crisis with Peres is over, Rabin retorted "certainly," and quickly got in his car.

Problems Likened to Bedouin Feud

TA0208140394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Aug 94 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "The Opening Shot for 1996"]

[Text] Ever since the prime minister's glorious return from Washington, Labor wheelers-dealers have been desperately trying to extinguish the fire between Rabin and Peres. They said the party needed a truce and even a "reconciliation ceremony," as if Rabin and Peres were two Bedouin chieftains locked in a blood feud. Everybody eagerly awaited a tete-a-tete in which the two men would iron out their differences, as they usually did in the past. But before such a meeting was held, Rabin struck again: He told Peres he could come with him to Taba, on condition that he stay out of his session with Mubarak. Peres said thanks but no thanks, and stayed home. No "reconciliation," no nothing, regardless of what they might have told each other in their tete-a-tete.

Rabin seemed to toughen his position the more Labor's peace evangelists talked of how much he needs Peres and how the two are attached to each other like Siamese twins. Rabin does not see himself attached to anybody, not to mention that he is not interested in Labor's approval of his status as Peres' twin. Party functionaries failed to realize that what happened in Washington was simply the first shot of the 1996 election campaign and that this is not the kind of personal clash that can be settled with a "reconciliation ceremony."

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Rabin's remarks to Clinton—"we will both run in the 1996 elections"—were lost in the sea of "historic" and "emotional" reports from the United States. To the best of my knowledge, this was the first time that Rabin publicly announced his intention to run in the next elections. This decision, which he apparently made in the wake of the agreement reached with Husayn, explains the aggressive and humiliating campaign waged against Peres. Being the first prime minister who may be elected in direct elections, Rabin wants to continue to be the only star on the stage. He does not want any partners, and definitely no competition.

Yitzhaq Rabin is leading the country one step at a time—some say unwittingly and without any prior planning—back to the 1967 borders. And look at the beauty of it: Israelis accept his moves with a certain measure of indulgence, which can be interpreted either as indifference or as broad public agreement. The fact that 'Arafat sits not somewhere in Tunis on the other side of the ocean but a one-hour drive away from Tel Aviv has become part of our lives. The fact that Rabin agreed, for the first time, to demarcate an international border between Israel and Jordan to replace the armistice lines—thus creating room for a Palestinian state between the Green Line and the future Jordanian border—was greeted without any excessive protest. Or, it may very well be that not everybody understands the significance of Rabin's concession with regard to the border with Jordan. Being a through and through security-oriented man, the public gives him a great deal of credit: Even when he cedes territory, he can be trusted not to affect Israel's security. The two achievements made by Rabin on the path to peace—the Cairo and Washington agreements—made him a lot of points with Israeli public opinion. And, if this is followed by a breakthrough leading to an accommodation with Syria, he will be able to run in 1996 without any competition.

So, how does Peres stand in his way in such a scenario? By being an equal partner sharing his triumphs. The agreement with 'Arafat gave the impression that Rabin and Peres were an inseparable pair and that more than Rabin leading the move, it was Peres who was leading Rabin. Thus, according to Rabin's associates, Peres broke the rules of the game and agreed upon the formation of the government as a condition for his appointment as foreign minister. At that time Peres promised to maintain a "cease-fire" for four years, and agreed that Rabin would be the only leader while he would take part in the decisionmaking. However, as time went by, Peres (a creative and visionary man) acquired a more prominent position than had originally been slated for him. He did not only share in the decisions, but also in the limelight.

Two events in the past year changed Peres' position: First, the Ramon affair weakened his standing in the party. Second, replying to a question on television about a month ago, Peres refused to confirm—but mainly to deny—that he would run for the premiership in 1996. By doing that, he left the question of competition—over which Rabin has been having nightmares—open. In my opinion, it was concluded in the wake of the Oslo agreement and Peres' ascendancy as Rabin's equal partner that the breakthrough with Jordan would be exclusively Rabin's baby and that Peres would be left out of it and humiliated in public. And, if there were to be a breakthrough with Syria, Rabin's men want it to be exclusively Rabin's doing: Not only without Peres sharing the limelight, but preferably with Peres ushered out of the government.

It was no coincidence that the first shot of the 1996 elections fired in Washington was aimed at Peres' ego. It was meant to put Peres back in his place, in the small cubicle assigned to him in June 1992 as a condition for Rabin's agreement to his inclusion in the government as foreign minister. But, who better than Rabin knows that this man not only has an irritating vision and indefatigable creativity, but also nine lives.

Rabin Receives Report on Intelligence Community

TA0208130394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Aug 94 p A1

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has received a report on the mutual relations between the various intelligence bodies. The report was prepared by Major General Refa'el Vardi (Reserves), the prime minister's adviser.

Vardi recommended tightening the coordination and cooperation between the three intelligence services: the Mosad, the Shin Bet, and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch. One of the main recommendations calls for resurrecting the committee of directors of secret services, the supreme body of the Israeli intelligence community, which has barely operated over the last few years. This committee is supposed to coordinate the activities of the various intelligence branches, prevent redundancies, and set priorities. The committee, which is headed by the Mosad chief, includes the heads of the Shin Bet and the IDF Intelligence Branch, the director general of the Defense Ministry, the Police commissioner, and the head of the Foreign Ministry Center for Political Research.

The report does not resolve the controversies which have surfaced over the last few years in the intelligence community, creating tension between the IDF Intelligence Branch and the Mosad.

Sarid Announces Candidacy for Meretz Head

TA0208182194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Report by party affairs correspondent Menashe Raz]

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[Excerpts] Minister Yosi Sarid today officially announced that he decided to run for the post of Meretz head in the next elections. In a letter he wrote to Meretz ministers and Knesset members, Sarid says that he made the decision after lengthy deliberations, and called on the Meretz members to rapidly prepare for the election of the party chairman. We spoke with Sarid a short while ago.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Raz] Mr. Sarid, do you believe that the person elected Meretz chairman is also a candidate for prime minister in 1996?

[Sarid] I hope that Yitzhaq Rabin will run in the 1996 elections, therefore there will be no one on our part to run against him. After all we will not shoot ourselves in the foot, not to speak of the head. [passage omitted] [end recording]

So Yosi Sarid decided to run; I like that. This is how Minister Shulamit Aloni reacted to Sarid's announcement. In response to a question, she said: At this time, I also intend to run for Meretz leadership and I do not contemplate retirement before the 1996 elections. Minister Aloni added that it should be remembered that Meretz has not yet officially merged, and has no written regulations or a constitution. Sarid's call to hold primaries for party leader as soon as possible is, therefore, not realistic at this time. She claimed that she was elected unanimously, and has a mandate for the entire term from 250,000 voters. The process of electing the party leader or candidates for the Knesset will take place only just before the 1996 elections, and not any time soon. Minister Aloni also said that she believes that, when the time comes, Meretz must decide that if Yitzhaq Rabin runs for premiership, Meretz will not present its own candidate for the post.

Shinuy's Minister Amnon Rubinstein is of the same opinion: Meretz presenting its own candidate for prime minister will only be relevant after the Rabin-Peres era, that is in the elections that will follow the 1996 elections for the 14th Knesset. Minister Rubinstein says that Meretz' merger should be a gradual process and, he believes, it will not happen before the coming elections. Shinuy opposes a situation in which everyone elects everyone before the next elections. Any decision about how to elect the candidate for party leader should be approved by the Shinuy institutions. In the current situation, where Meretz is not united, the man who will head the party should be a CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] member, which is the largest of the three Meretz components, Rubinstein said.

Minister Ya'ir Tzaban of MAPAM [United Workers Party] said in reaction to Sarid's announcement that at this stage, there is a need to reinforce the joint Meretz institutions, without terminating the activity of any of the three parties that make it. He does not reject the possibility of electing the Meretz chairman in joint elections by the three parties. This calls for discussions between the CRM, MAPAM, and Shinuy on the constitutional arrangements such a move requires. Minister Tzaban does not regard himself a candidate for the post, but does not rule out the possibility that another member of his party will present his candidacy.

Likud 'Confusion' Seen as Move To Eliminate Herut

TA0208151894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Aug 94 p B1

[Commentary by Ran Kislev: "The Likud on the Right Track"]

[Text] Even the Likud today is not what it used to be. It was enough for Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to invite Binyamin Netanyahu and some of his associates, representing the leading opposition party, to a meeting in his bureau (a political courtesy instituted by Menahem Begin) in which he briefed them on his talks with King Husayn and their results (of which they have probably learned by then from live television broadcasts or press reports) to no longer be called a traitor. After the meeting, he may even no longer be called the man who is selling out the homeland, breaking the state apart, bringing about a disaster for Israel, and other apocalyptic names he was given by Yitzhaq Shamir, his predecessor. It sufficed to see their beaming faces when they emerged from the meeting to realize how thirsty for a drop of honor one can get in the opposition desert.

At the same time, it would be pure viciousness to attribute the erosion in oppositionist zeal to games of respect, although it would not hurt if Rabin was a better expert on this game. This is not the only reason why Binyamin Netanyahu announced his support for the peace agreement with Jordan, while Moshe Qatzav, head of the Likud Knesset faction, stated that his movement must also recognize the Oslo and Cairo agreements—which means not only recognizing the evacuation of Gaza and Jericho, but also accepting the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, the very imminent establishment of Palestinian self-rule throughout Judaea and Samaria, and the introduction of permanent arrangements in two years.

As a matter of fact, this is blasphemy against every declared right-wing principle, unless Qatzav's remarks (which have not yet attracted any real fire from his movement) are seen as political tactics. Even Qatzav himself justifies his stand by urging a need to unite in order to prevent the real threat: The establishment of a Palestinian state. In other words, he made the remarks for the purpose of opening a gate for the Likud to enter a national unity government, from which it could have an impact on the direction of the process and, eventually, bring it to a stop. And yet, it is doubtful that Qatzav himself believes this is still possible. A far more correct insight into Qatzav's remarks—which expressed stands not too far removed from those of other members of his

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movement—would be to view them as indicating that the Likud is in a state of terrible confusion.

The Likud has good reasons for being in such a state. First of all, there is the growing feeling that no matter how hard they may protest, things keep happening. It is not so pleasant to see how events, which the whole world regards as historical, take place right under your nose and you do not play a part in them. It may even happen that Peres and Rabin are awarded the Nobel Prize, while Netanyahu, Qatzav, and the others are not even invited to Oslo.

Secondly, it is very unpleasant to feel the movement's public support fading away. It is to be assumed that the Likud's top echelons have learned a lesson from their failure to organize a campaign of popular opposition to the government moves in all its stages. Gush Emunim were the ones who managed to bring, with difficulty, several thousands out into the streets (and that too was far less than they had expected). The Likud failed too. The demonstrations it staged along the roads were always attended by the same several dozen people, including Netanyahu and a handful of his secretaries. It is one thing to talk about half the nation opposing the government's policy, and another to feel the reality on the streets.

It is, therefore, a small wonder that a growing number of Likud members have been calling for reassessment. Over the past two days, Qatzav, who looked like the most extreme of them, in fact expressed the sentiments of those who demand that "the facts on the ground be recognized," or urge "the Likud to return to the center of the political map."

What is this Likud return to the center? At the time, Herut under Menahem Begin faced the same problem. To rid itself of the extreme-right image, Jabotinsky's movement joined the respectable General Zionists, who have in the meantime become the Liberal Party. Later, in order to attain a broader legitimization as a center movement, GAHAL [Herut-Liberal Bloc] took in what was left from RAFI [Israel Laborers List]—the group of heretics such as Shmu'el Tamir and others—thus GAHAL turned into Likud.

But then, the same thing that happened to GAHAL before happened to the Likud: The Herut segment of the movement assumed absolute control over the party. So what does it mean to move the Likud back to the center? Getting rid of Herut?

In fact, this is the meaning of the process which the Likud is beginning to go through today. The political changes taking place in Israel absolutely contradict the ideological foundations of the followers of the Greater Israel vision. Forsaking loyalty to this concept would mean the end of the Herut Movement as we knew it.

In the long run, it may well be the Likud's only option to stay on as a movement that does not become a marginal party such as the now-extinct Tehiya. It may well be that the Likud has already started on the right track to eliminate the Herut Movement.

Bon voyage, friends.

Foreign Currency Reserves Drop $413 Million

TA0208121894 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Aug 94 p 8

[Report by Jose Rosenfeld]

[Text] Foreign currency reserves fell by $413 million to $5.636 billion last month, the Bank of Israel reported yesterday.

The drop from June reflected foreign currency purchases by the private sector and government funding of its activities abroad.

Continuous two-sided foreign currency trading began July 4. This allows individuals and businesses to negotiate foreign currency transactions with the banks throughout the business day.

The total daily volume of foreign currency transactions fell 11.5 percent to $165.6m. last month. Two-sided transactions made up 64.41 percent of all foreign currency trading.

Meanwhile, the state budget registered a NIS [new Israeli shekels] 70m. deficit in July, the Treasury reported yesterday.

Expenditures were NIS 7.21b., while revenues totaled NIS 7.14b.

The government raised NIS 115m. in the capital market, absorbing NIS 45m. more than it needed to finance its deficit.

Since the beginning of the year, the state budget has run up a surplus of NIS 436m. In addition, the government raised NIS 30m. from the capital market and privatization, absorbing NIS 466m. from the economy.

During the first seven months of the year, government expenditures totaled NIS 46.2b. and revenues were NIS 46.6b.

State Revenues Increase 12 Percent in July

TA0308111294 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Aug 94 p 8

[Report by Jose Rosenfeld]

[Text] State revenues rose 12 percent to NIS [new Israeli shekels] 6.1 billion last month compared with July 1993, reflecting the economy's continued expansion, State Revenues director Yoram Gabay reported yesterday.

During the first seven months of the year, revenues grew 14 percent to NIS 41.8b.

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Excluding legislative changes made throughout the year, which reduced tax collection by NIS 800 million, receipts increased 16 percent.

Income tax revenues overshot estimates by NIS 1.5b. from the beginning of the year, as they grew by 22 percent.

Treasury officials now expect that until the end of the year, they will collect NIS 2b. in taxes over their original estimates.

The Treasury is planning to use this surplus to pay for the redeployment of the army as a result of the autonomy agreement with the Palestinians and to reduce indirect taxes to help lower inflation.

Company income taxes and property taxes contributed to the unexpected surplus.

Property taxes shot up by more than 50 percent, and company taxes by more than 40 percent. By contrast, individual income tax receipts only grew 10 percent.

The significant rise is attributed to the high profits firms made from their regular commercial activities, as well as from their investments in the stock market at the end of last year.

Property tax revenues reflect both the rise in property prices and an active real estate market.

In July, income tax revenues rose a real 18 percent to NIS 3.4b. Value Added Tax (VAT) and customs receipts increased a more moderate 5 percent to NIS 2.6b.

VAT and customs receipts show that during the first half of the year economic activity expanded by 9 percent compared to the previous six months.

Except for cars, durable imports continued rising last month. Car imports dropped 10 percent to 9,000 last month compared with the average number of car imports in previous months. By contrast, video recorder imports rose 32 percent, refrigerators 28 percent, dishwashers 26 percent, televisions 16 percent and laundry washers 3 percent.

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Armed Forces Said on Alert Against 'Terrorism'

TA0208141494 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 1 Aug 94 p 16

[Text] Official Jordanian sources have confirmed that the Jordanian Armed Forces and security agencies have been placed on alert in anticipation of possible terrorist acts against the kingdom following the signing of the Washington Declaration between Jordan and Israel.

The sources said that security precautions have also been taken to protect Jordanian diplomatic missions abroad.

Forces 'Alert' for Attacks

MM2907120194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat: "Security Alert Announced in Jordan for Fear of Terrorist Operations"]

[Excerpt] Washington—Official Jordanian sources confirmed yesterday that the Armed Forces and Jordanian security services have been put on alert for fear of possible terrorist operations against the kingdom after the signing of the "Washington declaration" between King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in the White House last Monday [25 July].

The sources told AL-HAYAH that security precautions have been taken to protect Jordanian diplomatic missions abroad following the bombing incidents in Buenos Aires and London over the past two weeks, which coincided with the resumption of the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations in Wadi al-'Arabah and Dead Sea areas on 18 July and King Husayn's meeting with Rabin in Washington on Monday.

Although the U.S. Administration said that the bombings are aimed against the peace process as a whole, not against the progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track in particular, the timing of these bombings "cannot be ignored," according to some Jordanian sources.

A Jordanian official told AL-HAYAH yesterday that, despite Jordan's belief that recent bombings are tantamount to "retaliation operations" against previous Israeli operations against Hizballah positions in Lebanon, Jordanian authorities are not going to "risk ruling out any possible operations against Jordan." [passage omitted]

Ministry To Open Telephone Links With Israel

JN0308083194 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Aug 94 pp 1, 25

[Report by 'Isam Qadamani]

[Text] Jordan has begun studies and preparations to establish direct telephone links between Jordan and Israel as stipulated in the Washington Declaration.

Answering an AL-RA'Y question yesterday, Dr. Hashim al-Dabbas, minister of post and communications, said that establishing telephone links with Israel is a political decision that was included in Clause F of the Washington Declaration.

The minister said his ministry has worked out full-blown studies on this subject. He said the ministry's organizations are ready for telephone links at the appropriate time, but there are several points dealing with technical details that make fixing a date for official opening of communication channels unknown.

The minister said telephone contacts with the West Bank and Israel have been, and are still, unofficially going on via European countries. He said these contacts are illegal. He emphasized that from the technical point of view, the ministry is fully prepared for opening such channels, and implementation requires a decision on the highest level.

Elevating Banks of Jordan River Said Discussed

JN0308104794 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Aug 94 p 30

[Text] AL-DUSTUR has learned that Jordanian and Israeli teams have begun elevating the banks of the Jordan River on the eastern and western sides. The elevation will take place from that point where Jordan and Israel share the river water, in preparation for increasing the water pumped into the Jordan River.

This has taken place after progress was made in the negotiations and after studying the low banks of the river that will be below the new river level after the pumping begins.

AL-DUSTUR has learned that the work will include all of the Jordan River from the north, until the outskirts of Suwaymah.

Israeli television broadcast a report on this operation last Sunday [31 July], and spoke about bilateral cooperation in the field of development and good neighborly relations.

No Justification for Peace Moves Said Needed

JN0308084294 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Aug 94 pp 1, 26

[Editorial: "King Husayn's Confidence in His People"]

[Text] In his statement to a number of journalists in London yesterday, His Majesty King Husayn emphasized Jordan's full commitment to the peace process, which was joined by all Arab parties in 1991 on the basis of joint understanding and coordination.

At a time when His Majesty King Husayn emphasized Jordan's continued support for the PLO in its efforts aimed at restoring Palestinian rights in the occupied

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territories, including Jerusalem, his majesty also emphasized the Hashemites's continued custodianship over the holy places in the interest of all Arabs and Muslims.

As for the opposition, His Majesty King Husayn showed understanding of its role within the framework of the Constitution and the law. He said the opposition is not a majority, citing as evidence the popular support expressed by the one Jordanian family for the peace option which restores land and rights, preserves sovereignty, and realizes the hope of a better future.

On the basis of this deep confidence in the Jordanian people, His Majesty King Husayn did not hesitate to say that if there is a need a referendum will be conducted on the results of the negotiations. His majesty is aware of this people's strong allegiance to their Hashemite leader, their strong memory, and the hope of a better future by all sons of this homeland.

Hence, while Jordan proceeds firmly on the peace road, it does not consider itself in a defensive position and is not prepared to justify its steps to anyone, especially after Arab coordination has recently ended. Stopping progress seems to be as if one is keeping his position and policy hostage to the interests of the others, especially since the others are continuing the march we began together.

Based on this, Jordan has no doubts about the soundness of its position and the good administration of its policy. Therefore, Jordan is now closer to the attainment of its objectives than any time in the past. This does not conflict with the interests of anyone. Furthermore, this position, which serves its national interests, assists the brothers in attaining their interests since these interests are parallel and their attainment realizes the objective of just and comprehensive peace which we all seek.

Representatives Discuss Stands on Peace Process

JN0208194994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Interview with acting Speaker of House of Representatives 'Abd-al-Razzaq Tubayshat and Representative 'Abd-al- Rahim al-'Ukur by parliamentary affairs correspondent Jawad al-'Umari on 2 August in Amman—recorded]

[Text] The representatives held a meeting in the Hall of Portraits at the Parliament building today. The meeting was chaired by Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq Tubayshat, acting speaker of the House of Representatives. During the meeting, the representatives discussed a number of issues. They reviewed the positions of political parties and parliamentary blocs on the peace process and the relationship between the legislative and executive branches.

Our parliamentary affairs correspondent Jawad al-'Umari, held the following interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq Tubayshat, acting speaker of the House of Representatives:

[AL-'Umari] Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq Tubayshat, acting speaker of the House of Representatives. You held a meeting with the representatives in the Hall of Portraits today. This meeting follows your meeting with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Regent, yesterday. What is the nature of today's meeting and what were the main issues discussed?

[Tubayshat] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In fact, today's meeting and yesterday's meeting with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan sought to affirm the constants agreed upon among all the brother representatives. These constants include our full commitment to the Constitution and the National Charter and to what is stipulated in them, such as adhering to national unity; not to attack the brave Jordanian Army; and not to view people as apostates and traitors when they discuss any solution or any issue we are facing, especially regarding peaceful solutions.

Of course, there are many views on peaceful solutions. A large number of the brother representatives support peaceful solutions and believe in their benefits. Others believe that Jordan is facing a critical stage because of the bad circumstances surrounding it and because the friendly Arab countries are not cooperating with it. Therefore, there is no alternative to following this track. Moreover, other representatives oppose the peaceful solutions in principle. However, opposition has to be under the umbrella of the Constitution and the National Charter. During today and yesterday's meetings and in all the other meetings, we reaffirmed these constants and everyone pledged to adhere to them.

[Al-'Umari] Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq. Which constitutes the majority, those who oppose or those who support?

[Tubayshat] Those who support peaceful solutions are the majority for sure. That is in my personal opinion. There was no vote. However, in my personal opinion, the majority of representatives support this trend.

[Al-'Umari] Thank you doctor.

[Tubayshat] Thank you.

[Al-'Umari] Representative 'Abd-al-Rahim al-'Ukur. What is your impression of your meeting with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, at the Royal Hashemite Court yesterday.

[Al-'Ukur] In fact, we welcomed this meeting with his highness the crown prince based on our continuous hope that the leadership will remain the shield that protects all the people and all hues of the political spectrum in this country and that the leadership will remain the canopy under which everyone is protected, especially when a crisis arises.

Because our country and the Arab homeland is going through a critical crisis and a very difficult stage in which the Jews have become a party, we wanted to express to his highness the crown prince our viewpoint as an

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opposition with a position on the Jews through God's book, which we all believe in.

We noticed from his highness's stand that he truly understands the role of constructive opposition and that he respects its inclinations as long as it seeks with other forces, whether these are the government or the other hues in the political spectrum, to serve the country. At the end of the meeting, we thanked his highness the crown prince for giving us this opportunity. We hope that Almighty God will maintain the security and stability of our country.

[Al-'Ukur] Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim. In your capacity as a representative from the opposition, how do you reconcile the political opposition and maintaining national unity?

[Al-'Ukur] In fact, I do not see any contradiction between my position in politics as an opposition member and the issue of national unity because it is very different. I look at national unity as part of my creed and my religion. I cannot allow myself or anyone else to encroach on this sacred unity. I proceed from Almighty God's saying: The believers are but a single brotherhood. [Koranic verse]

We from all origins in this country are brothers in Islamic creed, brothers in terms of honorable coexsistance with non-Muslims. We always call on the good forces not to allow any division or clashes inside this homeland so it will remain impregnable, God willing.

[Al-'Umari] Thank you.

[Al-'Ukur] Thank you.

Husayn on Opposition, Jerusalem, Syria, PLO

JN0208144594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Report by Huda al-Husayni in London]

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan has said that no one can deny him the right to visit Jerusalem, and that he will not accept such a decision by anyone despite the Palestinians' opposition to such a visit.

In statements made in London on his way from Washington to Amman, where the opposition has begun to move, King Husayn, referring to this opposition, added that he is considering the possibility of a national referendum to reveal the size of this opposition. He said he is confident of the outcome of such a referendum and that he stakes his entire future on this outcome.

It seems that if a [Jordanian] decision is made, a referendum will only be held after the Jordanian Parliament discusses the draft peace agreement between Jordan and Israel.

Regarding Jerusalem, King Husayn said he had received many invitations to visit it. He added: I feel that it is my right, as a Muslim, a Hashemite, and an Arab to visit Jerusalem and Hebron. When I make a decision, I will pay the visit without awaiting approval from anyone. Concerning the Jerusalem clause which he, along with Israel, signed, the king said the objective was to separate the religious and political frameworks in order to encourage dialogue among religions. He said: What we demanded was for the sake of the Islamic nation. By so doing, we want to rise above politics because sovereignty over the holy places is for God.

King Husayn did not seem surprised or impressed by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's criticism of the Jordanians and Palestinians. The Jordanian monarch explained that he will not cancel Jordan's right to move toward an official peace agreement with the Jewish state despite the difficulties on the Syrian and Palestinian tracks. King Husayn said the PLO is the Palestinians' sole legitimate representative. He, however, added: Our cooperation with the PLO should be on the basis that each issue [should be addressed] on its own.

King Husayn stressed his confidence that a Syrian-Israeli agreement is close, and said he intends to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin very soon.

Politicians Urged To Rise Above 'Pettiness'

JN0308074194 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Aug 94 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the Regent, Tuesday [2 Aug] expressed hope that Jordanians would "rise above the pettiness of day-to-day politics" when dealing with national issues with long-term consequences for the country and its interests.

The Crown Prince said the higher interests of the nation should guide the actions of people who participate in government and governance.

"Those who lead and participate in government and governance have to take the safety and interest of the nation as a body, rather than particular parties or groups, into prime consideration," Prince Hasan told the JORDAN TIMES.

The Crown Prince said Jordan welcomes constructive opposition which can only enrich the fabric of public debate but stressed that it "is imperative for citizens privileged to wield influence on the body politic to exercise self-control" in whatever they publicly do or say.

"Citizens holding the public interest and trust are expected to uphold the ethics of public debate and defend national unity and solidarity in the face of challenges," Prince Hasan told the JORDAN TIMES one day after he underlined the need to understand the concept of the freedom of expression during a meeting with Islamists and other independent members of the Lower House of Parliament as well as Cabinet ministers.

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During the meeting, which was requested by Acting Lower House Speaker 'Abd al-Razzaq Tubayshat, Prince Hasan criticised as irresponsible acts the abuse of freedom of expression at public forums.

"Incitements to violence from pulpits or other public platforms do not constitute democracy but a perversion of democratic right," said the Regent.

Prince Hasan stressed that neither the economy of the Kingdom nor the cause of Jordan and Palestine will be served "if we engage in name-calling... or by irresponsible recriminations or accusations of treachery."

During his meeting with lawmakers, the Crown Prince criticised the attempts by some political parties to exploit the issues of poverty, unemployment and national debt to gain political support.

He also wondered whether it was the prerogative of one political party over another to discuss alleged corruption and mismanagement of the resources of the states at public platforms such as mosques.

The meeting followed a controversy between the government and the Islamic Action Front (IAF) over the questioning of some IAF deputies by the public prosecutor for delivering sermons that "harmed" the national unity and the Armed Forces.

Sources told the JORDAN TIMES that IAF Deputy 'Abd al-'Aziz Jabir went beyond what is "legally permissible and ethically acceptable" by attacking Jordan and urging disturbances in one of his Friday sermons before the Jordanian-Israeli summit in Washington on July 25.

But the sources added that the issue was solved during a meeting between Deputy Prime Minister Tuqan al-Hindawi and members of the opposition when Mr. al-Hindawi stressed that the government tolerates constitutional opposition but will not allow acts that could jeopardise the stability of the Kingdom.

Islamist deputies pledged during their meeting with Prince Hasan to express their opposition to the peace talks through legal channels, stressing that they will not "exceed constitutional limits."

Minister of Justice Hisham al-Tall said the government was concerned with upholding the law, which he said governs the law, which he said governs the executive authority's dealings with the opposition. "We do not have red lines," he said, "we have the law to apply."

While saying that "voices of (constructive) opposition are welcome and indeed necessary," Prince Hasan emphasised that the interests of the Kingdom would not gain from attacks on the country's institutions and leadership.

"Our national defence will not be served by attacks on the country's leadership or Armed Forces, the very people who are ultimately answered for the maintenance of the safety, security and advancement of the country," Prince Hasan said.

Commenting on the latest developments on the Jordanian-Israeli track of the peace talks, Prince Hasan stressed that the attainment of peace was a difficult task which requires a great deal of delicate efforts and hard work.

"History is replete with examples of the extent to which work for peace can be far more dangerous and delicate than work for war and the perpetuation of the violence, the hardship and the national impoverishment that war entails," the Crown Prince told the JORDAN TIMES.

IAF: Sermons To Continue Opposing Negotiations

JN0208125894 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 3 Aug 94 p 3

[Text] Hamzah Mansur, official spokesman for the Islamic Action Front [IAF] deputies, has expressed the hope that the government will act wisely and avoid being provoked against the Islamic deputies.

Interviewed by AL-BILAD in the aftermath of the government's interrogation of some IAF deputies for delivering sermons in mosques, Mansur said they will not stop calling for rejecting the peace negotiations, in mosques. The following is the text of the interview:

[AL-BILAD] What happened after the public prosecutor had interrogated some IAF deputies for delivering sermons in mosques, which were considered a violation of the law?

[Mansur] We met with Acting Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi early in the week and he understood our position. We emphasized to him that we are most concerned about security and stability in the country and told him that the executive authority's practices do not serve the march of democracy. We also hoped the government will act wisely and avoid being provoked as there are some who are annoyed by freedom.

[AL-BILAD] Is it true that deputy Muhammad 'Uwaydah has been arrested?

[Mansur] That is not true. It was only a rumor and 'Uwaydah was in his house.

[AL-BILAD] Have you been banned from delivering sermons in mosques?

[Mansur] We were preachers before we became deputies. The call for God is a basic fact in our work and we will not give it up. We preach in mosques upon the directives of the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs and we fill a serious gap in this regard. Preventing us from preaching is not a positive attitude or wise behavior. Reason will prevail if we are not prevented and something else will prevail if we are prevented.

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[AL-BILAD] What will you do if prevented from delivering mosque sermons?

[Mansur] Let us wait and see. I, however, hope that things will not reach that point. If this happens, it will then herald a stage of closing the people's mouths. We were denied access to radio, television, and the daily press while others were free to do what they like. Preventing us from calling for God will mean injustice and this is rejected.

[AL-BILAD] What will you do if injustic is done to you?

[Mansur] We will examine the way to confront injustice.

[AL-BILAD] Has al-Hindawi informed you of a decision preventing you from delivering mosque sermons?

[Mansur] Acting Prime Minister al-Hindawi has not raised the issue of banning us. We are committed to the call for God in our sermons.

[AL-BILAD] Do you think that the call for rejecting the peace negotiations is part of the call for God?

[Mansur] Islam is a system of life and what takes place affects our life. We reject negotiations on the basis of the Islamic facts and principles. We do not reject them for the sake of rejection; we are performing our legal right.

[AL-BILAD] It was reported that you are circulating a fatwa [religious ruling] considering negotiations a taboo.

[Mansur] I am aware of old fatwas prohibiting negotiations. The ulema of Palestine and al-Azhar have prohibitted negotiations. We also know that the ulema in Jordan are studying this matter.

[AL-BILAD] Some expect you to stop attacking the negotiations after the summoning of the IAF deputies. What is your opinion?

[Mansur] The Friday preacher should not be told what to discuss. As for us, we speak within the limits of the Islamic rules of conduct, away from defamation or accusations of treason. We will continue to reject the negotiations through the responsible word.

Opposition Rejects Washington Declaration

JN0208201094 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 1 Aug 94 p 2

[Text] Far from the official media hype which tirelessly seeks to distort the Jordanian Arab people's will and portray it as if it supports the Washington Declaration and what preceded or may follow it in terms of negotiations, measures, and statements, several Jordanian Islamic, national, parties and forces issued statements denouncing and rejecting this declaration which was concluded without consulting the people.

The Islamic Action Front's [IAF] House of Representatives members issued the following statement on this painful occasion:

Masses of our steadfast and heroic Jordanian people: The IAF deputies closely followed the Washington talks, the declaration issued by the negotiators, and the statements that were exchanged on this occasion. From the premise of our Islamic constants which make us duty-bound to state what is right, in line with our electoral program that was blessed by our lofty people, and out of a commitment to the trust that the people have placed in us, our deputies announce that they fully reject the Washington Declaration and the results that it entails for the following reasons:

1. This declaration ends the state of war with the Jewish enemy despite God's ruling in this regard.

2. This declaration grants the state of the Jews sovereignty and security on the land of Palestine without any commitment from the Zionist negotiator toward Arab Jordanian or Palestinian rights.

3. This declaration gives the historical enemy of this nation sovereignty over holy Jerusalem in return for participation in a symbolic supervision of the holy shrines. This is a heavy blow to the aspirations of our nation, which generation after generation, decreed that sovereignty over Jerusalem and Palestine is for the Arab and Islamic nation and that no one has the right to cede it.

4. The declaration initiates the normalization of relations with the Jewish enemy on all security, cultural, political, economic, and touristic levels. This means a national catastrophe, before the approaching Jewish invasion.

5. This declaration was not based on the people's will, was not preceded by a national dialogue, and was not discussed at the House of Representatives. This is a decision issued by the executive branch alone, which benefited from the House of Representatives being in recess.

6. Our deputies would like to note their regret and denunciation of the participation of the House of Representatives speaker in these meetings without obtaining the House's approval.

7. This declaration was accompanied by a campaign of disinformation and forgery of the people's will, depicting the people as if they were unanimously supportive of this process, although facts say otherwise. It is feared that this will become the approach for tackling facts in the stage of subservience and normalization.

8. This declaration ends decades of struggle and massive sacrifices the Jordanian and Palestinian people offered in a sad and tragic manner that will make the sons of the martyrs, and the wounded wonder about the objectives for which these sacrifices have been offered.

9. This declaration will complicate Jordanian relations with Arab brothers, resulting in more Arab division, in return for rapprochement with the usurper Jewish enemy.

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10. This declaration, concluded under U.S. auspices, means enshrining U.S. hegemony on our people and nation and granting it a good conduct certificate for all its crimes against our nation.

In conclusion, the IAF deputies reject all meetings with the Jewish enemy, secret or public, and do not recognize any of their results. They call on our loyal people to declare their rejection of these agreements which will only benefit our treacherous enemy, and to prepare for a day that will certainly come, God willing, when God's promise will be fulfilled.

The secretaries general of the following eight Jordanian parties issued a press statement: The Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the IAF, the Pan-Arab Action Front Party, Hashd [the Jordanian People's Democratic Party], the Jordanian Communist Party, the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, the Jordanian Democratic Socialist Party, the Jordanian Arab Democratic Party, and the Front for Confronting Concessions and Normalization. The statement says: The secretaries general and the leaders of the political parties that have placed their signatures on this statement closely observed what took place at the summit in Washington on 25 July 1994, the speeches that were delivered, and the dangerous agreements that were concluded between the Jordanian Government and the government of the Zionist enemy under the auspices of the U.S. Administration. They decided to issue this statement, rejecting them.

In this meeting, extremely serious fateful issues were discussed and agreed without obtaining popular approval, and in the absence of the Jordanian House of Representatives, and also without paying any attention to the opinion of our parties which constitute the largest political bloc in Jordan. On this occasion, the parties would like to emphasize the following:

First, The Washington Declaration decided to end the state of war when the enemy is still usurping the whole territories and has not yet abandoned an inch of land or any right to water.

Second, The enemy obtained new [Jordanian] concessions, represented by security coordination, joint economic projects, and approval of water-sharing, including the al-Yarmuk River water to which the enemy has had no right, as well as canceling both the Arab boycott of Israel and the refugee issue.

Third, The Government of Jordan accepted the religious jurisdiction over the holy places, thus leaving the political jurisdiction for the enemy's government, relinquishing the pan-Arab and Islamic sovereignty, and ignoring the fact that this issue concerns both Palestine and sovereignty over it.

Fourth, The Government of Jordan accepted that Washington, the enemy of Arabs and Muslims, sponsor Jordanian-Zionist relations, thus failing to take into account Washington's hostile position, its wars against the Arabs and Muslims, and its role in creating, arming, and funding the Zionist entity.

Fifth, the Government of Jordan publicly agreed to join the U.S.- Zionist axis without taking into account both the inter-Arab relations and the impact of this action on relations between the government and the people and between the Government of Jordan and neighboring Arab states. This will have serious repercussions on our security and stability in Jordan and also on the entire Arab homeland and the Islamic world.

The Jordanian Government made these decisions without consulting with the people, the political parties, and the House of Representatives. It thus employed nondemocratic and unsound methods in handling ordinary and political issues, and also circumvented all democratic norms.

These parties also sent a memorandum to the minister of information. It reads:

The leftist, nationalist, and Islamic political parties signing this memorandum would like to frankly acquaint you with the dissatisfaction prevailing among our ranks and the Jordanian public which is joining the national concern about the continued media blackout being pursued by the official Jordanian media—the television and radio services—and also about the indirect influence on the Jordanian press designed to deprive the people from knowing the opposition's views. This organized conduct casts doubts on the march of democratic transformation and divides the national ranks. It also weakens Jordan's position and its national and regional roles, makes Jordan prey for the U.S.-Zionist Israeli alliance, and subjects Jordan to a big policy of blackmail that will harm its present and future national fate. This was shown by the results of the Wadi al-'Arabah, Dead Sea, and Washington negotiations.

We do not oppose the government's right to express its viewpoint, in its capacity as the party joining these negotiations. We, however, do not approve of the government's claim that both its position and media represent the entire people. The government should stop the policy of turning its back on national institutions, represented by the political parties and all the social and trade union figures, which expressed their opinion about the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations the government is holding.

In view of the fact that you have been witness to the phases of Jordan's modern political development and that you are now assuming important executive responsibilities, including the Ministry of Information, we remind your excellency that this media blackout policy returns us to the era of martial law which was characterized by oppressing the opposition's views through all known forms of oppression. This policy aggravated our economic and political situation and opened the door to all kinds of corruption. We still hope that you will

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quickly rectify what is taking place in favor of the national interest and in order to safeguard national unity and democracy and confront the threats posed to us.

Writers Group Opposes Normalization With Israel

JN0208183294 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 1 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] The General Federation of Arab Writers [GFAW] issued a statement following the end of its permanent bureau meetings in Amman on 29 and 30 July. The statement says:

The permanent bureau of the GFAW, which held its meetings in Amman, is following with deep concern political developments in the Arab homeland, particularly those pertaining to plans to settle the Palestine question and the Arab-Zionist conflict.

The permanent bureau stresses its commitment to GFAW's declared goals and the charter of the Arab scholars, and it feels the need to resist any normalization with the Zionist enemy on all levels. The Arab writers declare their full rejection of any move to recognize the Zionist entity, as well as all forms of normalization of relations with it in political, economic, social, and cultural areas.

The permanent bureau also declares its adherence to the principle that the Arab conflict with the Zionist enemy is one of survival rather than borders and reiterates its rejection of any plans to settle the conflict at the expense of the Palestinian Arab people, who are displaced from their land and homeland and who are being exposed to all forms of genocide, oppression, and terrorism by the Zionist entity that has never changed its racist, aggressive nature and its colonialist schemes in the region.

Witnessing and following all forms of Western-Zionist penetration on several Arab fronts and areas, and understanding the fact that normalization with the enemy in general precedes and clears the way for recognition and leads other Arab sides to the enemy trap and compels them to make concessions that no one has the right to make, the permanent bureau appeals to Arab scholars in general and Arab writers in particular to fortify the Arab cultural front against all forms of penetration, subservience, and political concessions and also urges them to entrench the factors and values of cultural resistance of the cultural trends, symbols, and advocates of normalization.

Editorial Urges Opposition Within Legal Framework

JN0308103094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 03 aug 94 p 6

[Editorial: "The Law Is Above All"]

[Text] There is no denial that opposition to government policies is a legitimate and constitutional right. The essence of democracy is that it condones pluralism and guarantees those who do not agree with the policies and programmes of the government the right to protest those policies and programmes through all lawful means.

The laws of the land, written in accordance with the Constitution, state that certain institutions, especially the Monarchy and the Armed Forces, should not be discussed in any negative way. They also forbid the use of places of worship as pulpits for political campaigning. The Monarchy and the Armed Forces are guarantors of the Constitution and the security of the country. The two should always be kept out of the rhetoric of politicians or the press and that is clearly expressed in the Press and Publication Law passed only last year.

These facts are very clear to the opposition. It is, therefore, mind-boggling to see some opposition elements resorting to these illegal means in their opposition to the peace process. What is more puzzling is the involvement of some deputies who are well-aware of the Constitution, the different laws and the principles of the National Charter. The deputies should know very well that the forum for opposing the government is under the dome of the House of Parliament and not in the streets or the mosques.

The deputies and other opposition figures should also realise that the people of Jordan are fully knowledgeable of the principles that guide Jordan's path. The people of Jordan, politicised as they are, are fully conversant with the political and economic dangers and challenges that the country faces. These are the 1990s, not the 1960s. Rhetoric and slogans of the 1960s are long dead and abandoned. They do not correspond with the new realities with which the Kingdom and the people have to deal. Once opposition realises all of that, it must, sooner than later, reposition itself in a manner that will serve Jordan, the Jordanian people and the Arab cause in general by abiding by the law and respecting the constitution. The opportunity is there and missing it is a sin.

Muslim Brotherhood Should Remain in Parliament

JN0308082694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Aug 94 p 30

["Last Station" column by Salah al-Qallab: "Lest the Muslim Brotherhood Loses its Role"]

[Text] If the Muslim Brotherhood and the Islamic Action Front [IAF] carry out their threat and withdraw their representatives from the parliament, they will basically make a grave mistake against themselves. This is because their withdrawal from the House of Representatives will make them lose a very important position, render them inactive, deprive them of the special characteristic which distinguished them from the Muslim Brotherhood in near and far Arab states, and bring them troubles which they do not need at this delicate stage.

The Muslim Brotherhood members have the right to say what they want about the peace process as long as we have agreed to abide by the rules of the democratic "game." They should respect this "game" and abide by its rules, take the stand they want to, and continue to defend this stand freely in accordance with the rule that the minority should respect the majority's opinion.

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If the Muslim Brotherhood members examine the experiment of their "elder" brothers in Egypt, they will undoubtedly resort to passiveness and will not threaten to withdraw their representatives from the parliament. The Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt is the origin, and the Muslim Brotherhood organizations in the other states are branches. Despite this, since the dawn of democracy in this fraternal state, the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt has been persistently trying to make the state recognize them and to enter the parliament, even with one representative. This is because entering the parliament has many connotations the Muslim Brotherhood members in Jordan are aware of, before anyone else, and more than anyone else, due to their rich and long experience.

In all the democratic experiments in the world, there are proponents and opponents. It is a common practice that the opponents defend their views by all available peaceful means. However, when a decision is made by a majority vote, the opponents respect this decision without being asked to agree on this decision or to change their views on it.

It is much better for the opponents of the peace process to voice their opinions freely, to defend them, and to stay in their positions in the parliament. This is because their withdrawal will make them lose a major arena, and break the promises they have made to the voters during the election campaign. In the course of time, they might turn into an underground opposition, and thus, they will lose their influence, just as has happened to many political movements in several Arab states.

The characteristic that distinguishes the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan from its counterparts in other Arab states is that it has managed to coexist with the regime, despite the fluctuations which took place over the past decades, and with time won a measure of legitimacy that was denied to other political forces. Certainly, if they do not behave properly at this serious juncture, they will lose their balance and turn into an uninfluential and ineffective force.

Differences With Saudi Arabia on Jerusalem

JN0208123994 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 3 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] Government sources have revealed that differences between Jordan and Saudi Arabia have escalated again at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris as a result of each state's attempt to impose religious and legal trusteeship on Jerusalem and the Islamic places.

The sources said that differences resurfaced after Saudi Arabia and Egypt interfered in the work of the committee supervising the Islamic heritage in Jerusalem, at a time when Jordan is calling on the UNESCO to place the old city and its walls on the world heritage list.

AL-BILAD has learned that Saudi Arabia objected to a memorandum recently submitted by Engineer 'Isam 'Awwad, from the Jerusalem Awqaf Department, which is affiliated with Jordan, to the UNESCO in which he called for forming a scientific committee on Jerusalem without any religious discrimination.

Japan Extends 2 'Soft Loans Worth $171 Million'

JN0208184594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in English 1600 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] An agreement has been signed in the Ministry of Planning between Jordan and Japan, under which the Japanese Government offered Jordan two soft loans totaling $171 million. One of the loans is to support the balance of payment and an energy corrective program, while the other is to finance the second phase of al-'Aqabah thermal station.

The agreement was signed by the minister of planning for the Jordanian Government, and the Japanese charge d'affaires in Amman on behalf of his country.

Lloyds Expected To Start Land-Based Inspections

JN0208122794 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Excerpt] Amman—Aug. 25 has been set as the target date for the beginning of a land-based verification regime at al-'Aqabah to replace offshore interceptions and inspections by warships as part of the enforcement of the international sanctions against Iraq, official sources said Monday.

They said two officials of Lloyds Register, a London-based independent firm, arrived last week in Jordan and were working at al-'Aqabah to prepare the groundwork for the stationing of a six-member team of Lloyds surveyors who will observe all incoming and outgoing cargo.

"Hopefully, the arrangement will be finalised in all respects and in place by Aug. 25," said one source. "By then, it is also expected that the U.N. will approve the arrangement."

The sources noted that the U.N. Security Council had not issued an administrative or executive decision approving the sea-based inspections to enforce the sanctions against Iraq when it imposed the sweeping trade embargo following the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"However, we think it is absolutely necessary this time around that we have a fully formalised U.N. decision behind the land-based verification regime so that no changes could be made in the future without a similar U.N. move," said the source.

Other sources said Jordan had forwarded all necessary documents to the U.N. in New York requesting the world body's approval of the Jordanian-Lloyds agreement and the method of payment to Lloyds Register through an escrow account controlled by the U.N.

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The Kingdom is expected to claim the cost of the Lloyds register presence at al-'Aqabah from the U.N. compensation fund set up in 1991 for war reparations for direct and indirect victims of the gulf crisis.

Almost all the six Lloyds Register surveyors expected at al-'Aqabah will be of British nationality, the sources said.

The U.S.-led naval task force now patrolling the Red Sea will cease its interception of al-'Aqabah-bound ships as soon as the arrangement goes into place. "But they are unlikely to leave the area immediately," said another source. "They might want to hang around keeping watch to ensure that the arrangement works well before deciding to move away from the area." [passage omitted]

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Nation Said 'Victim' of U.S. Views on Bombings

MM0208131894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Aug 94 p2

[Report by Muhammad Shuqayr: "Details of What Washington Told Lebanon About the Bombings: 'Non-Lebanese' Hizballah Behind the Strikes, and the Answer Is in Punishing the Roots Not the Branches"]

[Text] Beirut—Before Washington decided to point an accusing finger at Iran, holding it responsible for the three explosions in Buenos Aires, London, and the Panamanian airliner—while still lacking evidence to confirm the charge against Tehran—Lebanon was for several days the "victim" of conflicting information circulated by a number of U.S. diplomats at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut.

At first, one U.S. diplomat, in his conversations with senior state officials, said that Washington was convinced that Hizballah would be held responsible and that it would later transpire whether that responsibility was direct or indirect.

The diplomat then retracted his accusation and stressed to a number of Lebanese officials that the initial result of the information gathered by U.S. intelligence was that responsibility should be confined to the Islamic Republic of Iran, that a non-Lebanese Hizballah carried out the bombings, and that the authorities conerned had started investigations to determine the identity of the culprits and the party they belong to.

The confusion of a number of U.S. diplomats in Beirut began to generate alarm in the south out of fear that Tel Aviv might wreak vengeance on southern villages through indiscriminate shelling of civilians. That prompted the [Lebanese] state leaders to summon all kinds of diplomatic mediations to find out the nature of the Israeli retaliation if it did occur. They assured most ambassadors that they did not think that any Lebanese or non-Lebanese party on Lebanese territory had anything to do with the bombing.

In this connection, a leading Lebanese official figure has told AL-HAYAH that Lebanon lived some tense hours under the threat of the "wall-busting" policy applied against it even though Washington knew better than anyone that the operations carried out in Buenos Aires and London were beyond the capability of any local party and required a professional organ, and that it would not be right to put one party or another on trial just on the basis of intentions.

The prominent Lebanese leading figure said that Washington decided to accuse Iran and especially some extremist groups which are opposed to the Middle East settlement and which have for some time been trying to upstage Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who recently declared that his country would not stand in the way of a settlement.

He said that the exclusion of Lebanon from the list of states accused in connection with the London and Buenos Aires explosions does not mean that Israel has finally decided not to launch a limited attack on Hizballah positions. The threat of aggression, he said, still exists and it [Israel] will try to deal a carefully planned blow somewhere, similar to the raid it carried out on Hizballah's base in the area of 'Ayn Kawkab in the Ba'labakk hills.

The leading Lebanese figure is understood to have said that "there were a number of reasons behind the easing of the full state of alert. The first is that, according to what a U.S. diplomat in Beirut told us, it would be unreasonable to have a major disturbance in the situation just as preparations are under way for U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region."

He added: "This time Christopher comes in crucial and decisive circumstances amid reports of the possibility of a deal to save the Syrian-Israeli track, signs of which are expected to emerge gradually."

He further said that "Washington believes that any strike against Lebanon would be ineffective so long as the charges are against a foreign party with extensions in the arena. Instead of pursuing the branches we should confront the origins.... Furthermore, the U.S. administration has informed us frankly that it rules out the possibility of an invasion that would lead to a reshuffling of the cards and undermine the opportunity awaiting Christopher's arrival."

The Lebanese leading figure quoted U.S. diplomats as saying that "retaliation against Lebanon would not solve the problem. Washington has quickly made a point of addressing more than one ultimatum to Tehran but will not begin to translate that into practical steps before signs of the solutions expected to result from the U.S. secretary's talks begin to appear."

[Lebanese official continues] He [the U.S. diplomat] stressed that Israel would not commit aggression but he is mistaken and does not know their intentions. However, it would not do anything that would violate the July 1993 agreement Christopher reached with Damascus and Tel Aviv.

In other words, the Lebanese leading figure does not rule out the possibility that Lebanon would remain the arena for letting off steam "even though we know that Washington realizes that what happened is beyond the capability of any Lebanese party, and it told us that its intelligence services had, thus far, no information about the identity of the party which carried out the three operations and that the media reports are based on speculation and analysis not on information and evidence. [quotation mark as published]

The Lebanese leading figure confirmed that Washington addressed a first preemptive ultimatum to Tehran giving a hint of an intention to blockade it and apply an

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isolation policy against it, as in the case of Libya and Iraq at present, "although we expect the blockade against Iraq to be gradually lifted in return for an economic and a political price it will have to pay. The first civilian plane will then be allowed to land at Baghdad airport as a message to Syria that the Iraqi regime will be allowed to catch its breath to prepare it for playing the part assigned to it in the game of pressures."

AMIA Blast, Delay in Rescue Services Discussed

NC0208150694 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 29 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Ibrahim al-Amin]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] According to security and diplomatic sources in Buenos Aires, Israel asked the Argentine Government directly after the explosion [at the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association, AMIA] to do nothing, not even remove the debris, until a military security team sent by the Israeli Government arrived in Buenos Aires. This delay caused the deaths of more people who were inside the building at the time of the explosion. It transpired later that the enemy did not allow the Argentine security organs to check or collect the evidence on "elements of the crime" until after the Israeli security team removed documents and special equipment from the building. Private information noted that Israeli intelligence officers were in the building. They were members of a team working in drug trafficking and arms trade in Latin America and who recruit Middle Eastern agents for the Mosad. [passage omitted]

Men Seized for Circulating Ansarallah Statement

NC0308113394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Munir Maqdah, an opponent in the Fatah movement to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, said today that his elements yesterday arrested three pro-'Arafat Palestinians for circulating a statement in the name of Ansarallah [Followers of God] blessing the anti-Jewish operations in Argentina and Panama without claiming responsibility for the two operations. Maqdah accused the elements who distributed the statement of receiving their orders from Gaza.

On 22 July a statement was issued in Sidon hailing and blessing the bombing of the Jewish community building in Buenos Aires. Maqdah saw the behavior of the pro-'Arafat elements as an attempt to confuse the domestic situation in the ['Ayn al-Hulwah] camp [near Sidon] and create disturbances.

Suspect in 1986 Berlin Bombing 'Cleared' of Murder

NC0308060394 Paris AFP in English 2159 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Berlin, Aug (AFP)—A key suspect in the bomb attack on a Berlin disco which preceded the 1986 U.S. bombing of Tripoli has been cleared of murder in a separate legal case tried in Lebanon, officials said Tuesday.

Yousuf al-Shuraydi, a former Libyan diplomat, is suspected of planning the 1986 attack on Berlin's La Belle disco which left three people dead and 230 injured. The disco was frequented by U.S. servicemen, two of the dead were Americans.

The United States blamed the bombing on Libya and launched an air strike against Tripoli 10 days later. Al-Shuraydi had been detained in Lebanon since 1992 where he was being held in connection with the murder of a Lebanese dissident in west Berlin 1984. Under Lebanese law, he was able to be tried there for offences committed in Germany.

He was acquitted by a tribunal in Sidon, west Lebanon on June 21, said the Berlin source.

German authorities have been seeking al-Shuraydi's extradition from Lebanon since last year so he can answer the disco-bomb charges.

U.S. Using Pressure To Ease Situation in South

NC0208172094 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] The situation in the south and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's upcoming visit to the region were discussed by President al-Hirawi, Chamber Speaker Birri, and Prime Minister al-Hariri during a meeting at the B'abda Palace this afternoon. The meeting lasted for approximately 90 minutes.

Our diplomatic correspondent reports that Lebanon's diplomatic circles have been informed by U.S. diplomats that Washington is using pressure to calm down the situation in the south after having been informed by Syria that Damascus does not find it agreeable that every visit to the region by Christopher comes amidst Israeli military escalations. Syria's position, which has been conveyed to the United States, is due to the fact that Christopher's visits always coincide with tension in the south, something that is not favorable at present, particularly since there is no evidence to implicate any Lebanese party in the Buenos Aires and London bombings.

Based on this information, the situation in the south has started to return to normal, following the confusion the situation caused the government last week. However, concern over possible individual operations in the south still lingers.

Escalation of Fighting in South Detailed

NC0208125194 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Tension escalated slightly in the south today after some caution characterizing the past few days. The limited tension, which escalated six days before the

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arrival of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in the region on a new tour, is attested to by the death of a guerrilla fighter from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the wounding of another during an attack on the Bra'shit position.

REUTER cited a security source in Marj 'Uyun as saying that a radical Palestinian guerrilla was killed at dawn this morning in a clash between Israeli forces and Lahd. The source said a clash took place between a number of fedayeen from the PFLP under the leadership of George Habash and the Israelis and their allies at the Bra'shit position in the central sector of the occupied security strip. The clash led to the death of one of the fighters, 38-year old Muhammad Ahmad al-Jundi, born in the Nahr al-Barid camp in the north and a member of the PFLP.

Another security source in Tyre said that one of the participants in the attack managed to withdraw from the Bra'shit position and was transferred to one of the hospitals in the region after being injured during the clash. The latter said that he also belongs to the PFLP.

In another development, Amal announced that last night it attacked two Lahd positions in Tallusah and Saydun, on the border of the occupied strip, with anti-tank weapons, machine guns, and artillery. The movement announced that its fighters killed or wounded all those inside the armored personnel carrier and destroyed fortifications during the two attacks.

In yet another southern development, the residents of Yuhmur al-Shaqif continued their sit-in at the Lebanese Red Cross headquarters in the UNICEF building in al-Nabatiyah in protest against the Israeli Army's siege imposed on their town for the past eight days.

An International Red Cross convoy left for Yuhmur this morning, in addition to a mobile infirmary of the Lebanese Red Cross. The residents of Yuhmur refused to allow the Red Cross in on foot and insisted that the road be opened and the siege of their village lifted.

Hizballah Reportedly Fires Rockets at SLA Post

NC0308082194 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0700 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Terrorist Hizballah elements fired five rockets at a South Lebanese Army [SLA] post in al-Bayyadah this morning, causing no casualties. The SLA retaliated by shelling three villages north of al-Bayyadah where which Hizballah members are active.

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TISHRIN Criticizes Israeli Arms Acquisitions

JN0308080894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 3 Aug 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary published today, the newspaper TISHRIN says: Israel's determination to acquire and stockpile additional weapons and military hardware shows that the Israeli mind-set rooted in aggression, war, and tension is unchanged, and that Israel is not pursuing a policy aimed at promoting peace efforts.

The paper adds: The acquisition and stockpiling of weapons by Israel call into question Israel's stands, and make people wonder what the motives for this armament endeavor could be. For, whoever advocates peace does not seek to obtain additional weapons. Similarly, the party that is eager to salvage the peace process from the stalemate plaguing it does not seek to acquire new sophisticated weaponry. This means that the weapons that Israel is acquiring and stockpiling will only whet its desire for aggression and expansion.

TISHRIN adds: Israel's determination not to abandon its armament programs shows that its aggressive practices and stands will remain unchanged. This creates an imbalance in the region, promotes Israeli arrogance, and prompts Israeli officials to hold calls for peace in complete disregard and to shun reasonable arguments.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: No doubt, the activation of peace efforts, and salvaging the peace process from the stalemate plaguing it require an effort by Israel to halt its anti-peace course, to demonstrate a commitment to the components of peace, and to declare a willingness to meet the requirements of peace. But, if Israel persists with its policy of acquiring additional weaponry, this will only create further destruction, because it would whet its desire for aggression and expansion; and this can only foster chaos and tension in the region.

More Women Nominees Register for Elections

JN0308070294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] In a statement to a correspondent of the Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA, Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah has said: Nominations for the People's Assembly elections for the sixth legislative term ended at 1430 yesterday. The number of nominations registered in all constituencies in the governorates totals 7,434, including 4,465 in Category A, workers and peasants, and 2,969 in Category B, other sectors of the people. Among the nominees were 512 female candidates, including 351 in Category A, and 161 in Category B.

In his statement, the minister underscored the increasing number of nominations submitted by Syrian women, saying: If anything, this is indicative of an enhanced awareness on the part of Syrian women, thanks to the directives His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has issued regarding giving them the chance to make effective contributions in all walks of life, because he believes women must be allowed to play their natural role, given the fact that women make up half the community, and that they are the basic guardians of future generations.

The interior minister explained that the final figure of citizens whose nomination applications are accepted will be announced once they are examined by the governorates' competent election committees, which were formed especially for this purpose under the Election Law, not later than the close of official business on Saturday, 6 August.

Concluding his statement, the minister said: Once they obtain the final receipt of the acceptance of their nominations, nominees can begin their election propaganda activities in accordance with the provisions enshrined in the Election Law.

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Bangladesh

Pakistani Army Chief Arrives, Meets Counterpart

BK0208153994 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] General Abdul Waheed, chief of staff for the Pakistani Army, arrived in Dhaka today on a four-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh.

Waheed visited Army headquarters and met with Lieutenant General Muhammad Nooruddin Khan, Army chief of staff. On his arrival at Dhaka Cantonment, Waheed placed floral wreaths on Shikha Anirban [immortal soldiers monument] and paid his respects to the soldiers who were martyred during the 1971 liberation war.

Commentary Views Challenges Facing SAARC

BK0208143394 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] The two-day conference of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Council of Ministers has concluded in Dhaka. Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur, speaking at the end of the conference yesterday, described it as fruitful. Rahman said that a major achievement of this 14th conference of the SAARC Council of Ministers was the unanimous decision reached to take forward the SAPTA [South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement] agreement. The conference also decided to hold a meeting of the intergovernmental experts group on free trade in the South Asian region in Islamabad next September. It is expected that during this meeting it will be possible for the SAARC member countries to reach a consensus on the issue of free trade among them in accordance with the SAPTA accord.

The SAARC council of ministers during their conference held in Dhaka adopted a report for presenting it before the next SAARC summit. The conference also asked the SAARC Standing Committee, comprising the foreign secretaries of the member states, to hold a special meeting. It is expected that during this meeting apart from the special programs of the SAARC, detailed discussions will be held on the different organizations and programs of the forum. The date for holding the next SAARC summit was also finalized during the conference of the council of ministers held in Dhaka. The eighth SAARC summit will be held in New Delhi from 15 to 17 April of next year. The member countries during the conference of their Council of Ministers reached a unanimous decision regarding the new date for the holding of the next SAARC summit. The Council of Ministers will apprise the heads of states or governments of the member countries about their decision regarding the date of the next SAARC summit and seek their approval in this regard. The SAARC Council of Ministers have also forwarded the report of the SAARC finance and planning ministers meeting on eradication of poverty from South Asia and also the decisions taken at the ministerial level expert group meeting on youths and the disabled for the consideration of the next SAARC summit.

Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman disclosed that talks have already between held with the European Union and ASEAN on cooperation with SAARC in different spheres. He added that these talks are still continuing at different levels.

Prime Minister Khaleda Ziaur Rahman, while inaugurating this two-day long 14th conference of the Council of Ministers in Dhaka, emphasized the SAARC goals and objectives. She said that a proper framework of mutual cooperation should be adopted to enable the seven SAARC member countries to collectively face the challenges of the future successfully. The prime minister reiterated that presently the greatest challenges before the SAARC region are to fight hunger, disease, illiteracy, and superstition. She said that in the present- day world it is neither possible for any person to lead a secluded life nor is it possbile for any nation or state to remain isolated. The present-day world is based on cooperation. This is the age to move forward through mutual contact and cooperation. Human society has developed through mutual contacts, exchanges, and close cooperation. Whenever there was a lack of contact and cooperation it lead to disaster. In the present-day world, we are observing the progress being made through cooperation. Among the nations of the world, apart from bilateral relations we are seeing the fast growth of forums aimed at regional cooperation. Economic cooperation organizations are being formed in North and South America, Europe, Africa, the Arab world, Southeast Asia, and the South Asia region. These regional cooperation organizations are being formed on the basis of mutual understanding and cooperation among the concerned countries with a view to achieving progress and prosperity through joint efforts. These cooperative groups have already achieved noteworthy success. To cite examples, the successes achieved by the European Economic Community and ASEAN may be mentioned. Taking this reality into consideration, the SAARC forum was launched in South Asia in 1985. It is undoubtedly a historic event that such a prospective regional cooperation organization has been launched in South Asia despite the unfavorable relationships among the member countries. This organization is proceeding forward, albeit slowly, toward achieving its objectives.

About one-fifth of the total world population lives in South Asia. This vast population is suffering from hunger and poverty. SAARC has been launched with a view to eradicating poverty and improving the standard of living of this large group of people. The greatest challenge before SAARC is poverty. It may be possible to face this challenge through united efforts of the seven member countries of this forum. SAARC can bring

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about a change in the economy of this region through the development of its vast resources and manpower. To achieve this goal the SAARC member countries should be more sincere and devoted to the cause. This is possible by forging better understanding among the member countries and fostering noble political intentions. Though bilateral issues do not fall within the purview of SAARC, obstacles in the bilateral relations of member states are likely to impede the progress of this forum.

India

Clinton's Kashmir Remarks Hailed as 'Big Advance'

BK0308034194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] India has described as a realistic approach the latest suggestion by the U.S. president, Mr. Bill Clinton, to New Delhi and Islamabad to resolve the Kashmir issue through bilateral pragmatic negotiations. The foreign secretary, Mr. K. Srinivasan, told newsmen in New Delhi the American president's message on the issue indicates a big advance. Mr. Clinton made the remarks in reply to a letter from the president of the Kashmiri Women for Communal Harmony, a California-based organization.

Germany: No Nuclear Technology Sales to Pakistan

BK0308133694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Germany has assured India that it would prevent its private firms from clandestinely supplying nuclear technology to Pakistan.

Official sources in New Delhi today said that the German foreign minister, Dr. Klaus Kinkel, told Indian leaders during his recent visit that Bonn strongly disapproved the sale of such materials to Pakistan for its nuclear program by some German firms early this year. Dr. Kinkel informed that strong action has been taken against the firms involved in the deal. Following this, two Pakistan diplomats were also expelled from Germany. The sources said there was no request from Germany during Dr. Kinkel's visit asking India to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

More SAARC Trade Urged, Pakistan Chided

BK0208132894 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Commentary by G.N. Raina]

[Text] The just-concluded meeting in the Bangladesh capital of the foreign ministers of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, SAARC, has expectedly resolved to carry forward the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement, SAPTA, which was signed by the seven-nation forum at the summit in Dhaka last year. The decision reflects the desire of the member states to work together to realize the common dream for a better future of their people. There is little doubt that the key to alleviate the lot of 1.5 billion poor in the SAARC region lies in dismantling trade barriers and the tariff wall which exist to the detriment of mutual interests. Conscious of this stark fact that the total volume of trade amongst the SAARC countries at present is less than 3 percent of their combined international trade, the Dhaka meet has stressed the need to boost intraregion trade by completing negotiations on what concessions the member countries could make under SAPTA.

The economic experts from the SAARC nations who form the intergovernmental group are to meet in Islamabad next month to finalize the schedule of concessions on various goods. Consistent to the true SAARC spirit, the Indian minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, in his address to the Dhaka meeting reiterated his government's commitment to SAPTA and said that India was eager to promote the wellbeing of the people of the South Asian region and to accelerate its economic growth and social progress. One could not overstate the urgency of making SAPTA operational, Mr. Bhatia said. In fact, rapid changes in world economy call for greater economic cooperation among the SAARC nations and economic opportunities offered by SAPTA need to be further explored. Needless to emphasize that the success of SAPTA would generate new employment opportunities in the region.

The Dhaka meeting did well to urge the member nations to overcome what it called old prejudices and lingering psychopolitical reservations about one another. Increased cooperation in the economic field on an intra-SAARC basis would indeed be to the mutual benefit of all the seven countries and this would help speed up the process of turning the economies in the region around which consequently would ensure removal of poverty, malnutrition, disease and illiteracy. Cooperation, particularly in the core economic areas, is a must if the emerging economies in the region have to maintain a sustained growth.

Amongst other things, the Dhaka meet emphasized the need to evolve a common strategy to deal with major issues like population, women's welfare, and social development. India's position in this regard is well-known. New Delhi has already prepared and even circulated the national plan of action for the SAARC decade of the girl child and its guiding principles. India believes that real development cannot take place if it bypasses women. Here too, the SAARC countries could play a vital role through a planned utilization of the resources available in the region.

Even as the SAARC conference was discussing the issue of trade liberalization, Pakistan struck a discording note

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with its Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali alleging that SAARC had been bogged down by what he described as the big brotherly attitude of India toward other members. Least such a statement, apparently made in bad taste, should damage the SAARC spirit, Bangladesh, as the chairman of the conference, took no time to refute the Pakistani allegation. The Indian minister of state for external affairs did not want to use his presence in a friendly country like Bangladesh to criticize a third country. As has been rightly pointed out by the Indian High Commission in Dhaka, Pakistan's lack of commitment to SAARC could be judged by its sponsorship of terrorism and meddling in the internal affairs of other countries and its obstruction to concrete proposals toward economic cooperation under the SAARC.

Article Reviews 3 Years of Economic Reforms

BK0308085594 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 1 Aug 94 p 6

[Article by Lalteshwar Shrwastava]

[Text] The government is worried because despite the reforms and enhanced facilities, there has been no growth in industrial production during the last three years. Under the New Economic Policy, anyone could install any type of industrial unit anywhere he liked. There was complete freedom. A substantial exemption was also granted in the taxes and duties levied on entrepreneurs. In spite of these facilities and advantages granted under the New Economic Policy, industrial production has been declining, while the expectation was that these reforms would enhance production, improve quality, and reduce production costs. Nothing of the sort happened in any sector. This decline is likely to affect our exports adversely. If the supply of goods decreases, it might lead to higher prices. The government is stunned and dismayed, unable to decipher the reason.

The industrialists and private entrepreneurs have presented a long list of demands to the government to solve this problem. The list appears unending. Such a situation existed during the era of controls, and it continues unabated. Now it is eminently clear that in order to justify the new policies and prove their effectiveness, the government will have to grant even more concessions. The problem confronting the government is whether it will enter the 21st century through indigenous industries, or continue to indulge in risky ventures by seeking help from foreign companies on behalf of indigenous companies in order to put the latter on a sound footing. The answer should come from the industrialists—while pausing in their presentation of uproarious demands. It is essential to know how far they will succeed in meeting the expectations the country has of them. Would they hope to profit by enhancing production and productivity or simply pin their hopes on the concessions and exemptions granted by the government to fill their coffers?

At present, investing in the stock market appears to give much better returns in comparison with setting up an industry. Even the finance minister is worried about this.

The Differences of Opinion About Industrial Policy: In a recent meeting of the Central Industrial Development Advisory Council, this situation was brooded over. This council was formed to consider the problems arising from implementation of the New Economic Policies and to advise on possible remedial measures. The government was expecting 6- to 7-percent growth in production this year, but now this target appears quite impossible. Not only is the growth rate of production is declining, export growth is also going down. There is no consensus among the government, industry, and labor for an amicable solution. The states' demand that the central government must change its industrial policy and the states must be given more money to invest in their industrial sectors. They want top priority for employment-oriented industries.

The leaders of the industrial and commercial organizations complain that despite the repeated concessions and exemptions granted on taxes and duties, the investment required to develop industries is still very high. Also, they are unable to get adequate credit. The banks' rate of interest ought to be reduced. The policy regarding private investment in the basic industrial sectors like electricity must be made clearer. As far as the government policy regarding foreign investment is concerned, both the private and public sectors have objections. Their complaint is that the government is giving much more liberal consideration to foreign companies than they are receiving. As in the electricity sector, the government is granting special facilities and concessions to foreign telecommunications companies. Resentment about this is increasing. Thus the differences in the implementation of the industrial policy are increasing more rapidly.

Our Preparations for the GATT: The basic problem appears that the government has lost trust in local companies. There is rampant opposition to the public sector, but the private enterprises are unable to fulfill what is expected of them. Meanwhile, the governments of the developed countries and their companies are pressuring our government to liberalize its policies even more. Apart from these pressures, the GATT agreement takes effect next year. Our preparations for that are still incomplete. There seems to be an element of ineptness in these preparations. Merely passing legislation serves no purpose. We have to make sure our goods and services are potential competitors in the international market, or else we will we lag behind once again. Every country is preparing for next year when the GATT agreement takes effect. China is working hard to join the new trade system. Instead of increasing, our industrial production is going down. According to the available statistics, in March our industrial production decreased by 0.9 per cent. In July our manufacturing production decreased by 3.4 per cent. This year, our export growth rate remained 9.7 per cent between April and May, which was 29.7 per cent in these months last year. Most certainly, this is an alarming situation.

One more sticky problem is likely to surface in trade matters. Under the GATT agreement those countries

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with balance of payment (BOP) problems are granted some special facilities. For instance, they would be permitted to ban the import of certain goods and maintain this ban if they like. The developed countries need not export their goods in return to these countries importing goods from them. Now with the foreign currency reserves overflowing in our coffers, it would be difficult to ban imports from the developed countries in the face of the BOP problem. The increase in our imports would definitely influence our production which in turn will also effect our exports. Even otherwise, our finance minister has been reiterating continuously that he favors raising concessions on the import of consumer goods. This position would certainly affect our industries adversely. The government has already declared that it will enhance concessions for importing televisions and other consumer items.

The Demands of Our Entrepreneurs and Industrialists: The government and the industries are emphasizing privatisation more and more, but in all large industries the majority shareholding is of the governmental financial institutions, which have given the money as loans. It is even up to 90 percent of the total loan given in certain cases. Still the ownership rights rest with the private parties. Now the industrialists demand that the right to vote of these financial institutions which gave them loans should be abolished. Together with it, they (the industrialists) must get more loans on account of their extra shareholdings. In all probability, the government is likely to accept their this demand.

Bringing change in the labor laws and retrenchment have been their long-standing demands. The Labor Ministry has prepared a draft proposal to bring amendments to the Industrial and Company Laws, but the government is likely to face stiff opposition in the coming session of Parliament. Another problem is recession, which is still unabated. Recession is also afflicting even the industries of the developed countries. Unless there is some growth in the economic activities, new avenues for employment would not be opened. At present, there is no scope for growth in either demand or supply. The increase in the wholesale price of essential commodities has also lessened demand. There is no apparent effect on market price of the new economic policies, and under the marketing system the government cannot do much either. Meanwhile, the Asian Development Bank has expressed its grave concern about the slump in the foreign aid utilization in India. The bank is of the opinion that India should select those projects in which the sanctioned foreign aid money could be used to the maximum. The delay in implementing the projects is also causing trouble. Only 35 per cent of the total of sanctioned foreign money is being utilised. Under this condition, the help given to India ought to be reassessed, according to the United Asian Bank. Even the World Bank is constantly complaining on this very account. But, it appears, the Government of India is now not interested in the developmental programs. Due to the absence of goodwill for the governmental units, the utilization of the sanctioned foreign aid amount is also decreasing progressively. A long list of projects has been presented before the United Asian Bank and the World Bank, but these are not being implemented. This is also acting as a deterrant to the faster pace of industrialization.

Foreign Aid: In the meeting of the Aid India Consortium held in June, the Indian Government said that efforts were on to find effective means for more and more utilization of the foreign aid. For this, even the Planning Commission had been consulted. The projects begun with the foreign aid would be given sufficient funds in rupees. Besides, the steps are likely to be taken to solve the management problems of such projects and bring in reforms through institutionalized administration. Special measures are being taken to procure necessary material for these projects through indigenous and foreign supply sources. Despite these efforts, India has to forgo some of these funds received through the World Bank and the United Asian Bank, although the Finance Ministry still claims that the foreign aid utilization percentage is steadily growing. What is needed now is to allow the public sector units to enhance their capacity and efficiency by using these unutilized foreign aid funds.

The Foreign Currency Reserve: Now the government is worried about the possible adverse effects of this continuously growing foreign currency reserve. Unless the process of industrialization quickens, this large foreign currency reserve is not likely to be utilized. The problem has grown manifold by suddenly entrusting the responsibility of investment to the private sector which is not capable to invest large sums immediately. This has become quite clear during the last three years of observation. This has also proved that sudden decreases in investment in the public sector was also a wrong step. It appears in this matter the policy of the government is not based on a correct assessment of the situation. The private sector is unable either to enhance its own capacity or to invest in new units. This is not the time to slow the pace of economic development in any way. The government took three long years to declare the new facilities it has decided to offer. This has definitely inmbalanced the central budget and also enhanced the losses in revenue.

Iran

Velayati To Attend IOC Meeting on Bosnia

LD0208182094 Tehran IRNA in English 1749 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati is to participate in the foreign ministers assembly of the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [IOC—Islamic Conference Organization] in Geneva on the Bosnia-Herzegovina crisis this Thursday.

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Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mahmud Mohammadi, announcing the above said here Tuesday that the Islamic Republic does not think the recent decision adopted by certain Western countries and Russia is adequate, and maintains that the present conditions are only a lever with which to pressure the government and Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He said Iran intends to continue efforts for lifting the arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina and make sure that authorization is obtained for sending Bosnians their needed defence hardware under the United Nations supervision.

Mohammadi said despite Bosnia being a member of the U.N., the world organiztion has not done anything substantial for safeguarding the lives of the Bosnians and the territorial integrity of their country.

Iran, Bangladesh, Egypt, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey are member states of the OIC contact group.

Nateq-Nuri Receives ROK Parliamentary Delegation

LD0208175994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] The South Korean parliamentary delegation today met Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri. At that meeting, Nateq-Nuri called for the problems of the Korean peninsula to be solved by peaceful means.

He further expressed his desire for the active participation of South Korea in the implementation of the Second Five-Year Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran and called on the officials of that country to make greater efforts in activating the Tehran-Seoul joint economic commission.

The head of the Korean delegation described the relations between the two countries as very good and expanding and called for Iran's cooperation in continuing and expanding bilateral relations.

Germany Urged To Extradite Bombing 'Mastermind'

LD0308081194 Tehran IRNA in English 0741 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—A Persian daily Wednesday referred to the evidences indicating that the recent sabotage activities of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) were directed from Germany and called on Bonn to hand over the German-based MKO members to Iran.

Evidences collected after the arrest of Mehdi Nahvi who was responsible for the June 20 explosion at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (as) indicate that the recent terrorist activities carried out by the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) were supervised by the German-based members of the MKO.

In an article, the morning daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' called on Germany to take the issue seriously and acquit itself of any doubt regarding its support for the MKO terrorist activities. The paper called on the Bonn government to prove its hatred of the recent bomb blast at the holy shrine which was directed by the MKO from German territory by extraditing the mastermind behind the heinous crime.

Turning to the friendly Tehran-Bonn ties, the article said that the mutual understanding which exists between the two countries is to the extent that a German spy whose charges were proven and who was sentenced to death was pardoned on the direct request of the German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and extradited to his country. Helmut Szimkus, a German national who was convicted of espionage activities against Iran was pardoned and extradited to his country on July 1.

Now the ball is in the German court, said the article, and called on Bonn to hand over to Iran the member of the group who directed the recent terrorrist operations so that he would be tried at a competent courts. The paper referred to this option as a means to prove Germany's good-will towards Iran and the Shiite Muslims world-wide. In conclusion, the article urged Iranian officials to seriously take steps for the extradition of the criminal.

Argentine Government Urged To Apologize

LD0308084094 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—The Persian daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' Wednesday referred to the baseless allegations made by the Argentinian officials about Iran's involvement in Buenos Aires explosion and urged the Argentinian government to officially apologize to Iran.

Immediately after the explosion at the Zionist regime's embassy in Buenos Aires, said the daily in its editorial, Washington and Tel Aviv in a suspicious and coordinated propaganda maneuver made a baseless claim that Iran was responsible for the blast. The propaganda even beguiled the Argentine officials into repeating the allegations made by the U.S. and the Zionist regime, said the paper.

Stressing that the hasty and unprincipled stance of the Argentine government has brought under question the Tehran-Buenos Aires ties, the editorial said that it should explicitly withdraw the unfounded statements and apologize to Iran officially.

British Government, BBC Said Supporting MKO

LD0208213494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2008 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Dear listeners, we draw your attention to our commentary entitled: Britain's support for the Monafeqin [hypocrites—refers to the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] terrorists.

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The British Government, continuing its support for the hypocrite terrorists, has secretly prevented members of parliament [MP's] and journalists from visiting Iran to produce news stories about the crimes of the hypocrites.

The Iranian Embassy in London has invited British MP's and journalists to travel to Iran to examine the role of the hypocrite terrorist grouplet in the murder of Christian priests.

The secret efforts by the government and Zionist pressure groups in Britain to prevent this invitation being accepted are indicative of coordinated steps designed to hide the terrorist activities of this grouplet. Mercenary terrorists of the hypocrite grouplet have recently, with the help of the British Government, had an opportunity to spread their propaganda over one of the government-owned radio stations. Furthermore, they associate with MP's who are agents of Zionism.

Alongside the BBC's efforts to deny the hypocrite terrorists' involvement in the Mashhad bombing, and their attempts to bomb Zahedan, Qom, and the shrine of his eminence the imam, in addition to the attempts to cast doubts on the connection of those arrested to that grouplet, these actions are part of the policy of the British Government and the BBC' propaganda network in coordination with America's policy of opposing the Islamic revolution. And this is taking place at a time when even the British press has criticized the government of that country and has openly referred to the hypocrites as a terrorist group.

This anti-Iranian policy is not unprecedented in Britain. During the eight years of holy defense [the Iran-Iraq war], the British turned a blind eye to Iraq's chemical attacks, remained silent in the face of missile attacks against civilian areas and defenseless people, and did not hold back any assistance from the Iraqi regime.

Undoubtedly, investing in terrorism and terrorist groups such as the hypocrites indicates a deep crisis among British politicians. The lack of independent action, blindly following American and Zionist whims, and an inability to discern the truth have, on the whole, turned Britain into a second-class and dependent country in Europe and the Middle East.

Need for Islamic Common Market Assessed

NC0108102294 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 20 Jul 94 p 2

[Commentary by 'Ali Feyz: "Islamic Trade"]

[Excerpts] Islamic trade is a topic that has come up on the occasion of the international trade fair of Islamic countries that was held in Tehran with the joint cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Conference Organization. There is no doubt that the Islamic countries have relatively good possibilities to expand trade among themselves, as there is also no doubt that trade relations among the Islamic countries takes place through third countries. And the question is why. If we want to answer this disturbing question realistically, we will have to list the following existing problems:

First: the failure by Islamic countries to identify their existing potentials;

Second: lack of communication and the absence of the necessary speed in tending to affairs in Islamic countries;

Third: lack of necessary sensitivity in the trade sectors;

Fourth: political obstacles and differences of view among the ruling powers.

Each one of these obstacles has led to a drop in trade among Islamic countries. Thus, in order to bring about a positive development in this field, we need constant and persistent efforts and—more important yet—a political administration among Islamic countries. [passage omitted]

A common Islamic market has come closer to reality especially after the independence of the Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan and their adherence to the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO. Nevertheless, it seems that the obstacles before it have not yet been completely removed. The critical tone of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the inauguration ceremony of the Islamic Trade Fair in Tehran shows that expectations have not been met, and that if the Islamic world does not work more seriously toward this end, it will continue to be a market for the industries of the industrialized countries and, worse than that, it will have to regulate its trade relations through European or multinational companies acting as middlemen.

The fact that the economies of the Islamic countries are suffering from a single-product export and their potentials are, more or less, the same is a major obstacle facing the expansion of trade within the Islamic world. But this weakness is not so great that it cannot be overcome. It seems that if the collective political will in the world of Islam is strengthened, trade can expand beyond the current limits and help supply the mutual needs of the Islamic countries.

Islamic countries have many potentials that other countries greatly need. But the problem is that the necessary information to identify these potentials does not exist. Moreover, the trade sector in the Islamic countries has traditionally been linked with the economic and trade resources of the West. Easy access to communications, insurance, bank credits, and transportation in the West have been effective in making entrepreneurs and importers in the Islamic countries link their interests with Western companies rather than to seek trustworthy partners in the Islamic countries. But this weakness will not be overcome unless it is supported by a strong political and collective backbone in the Islamic countries. And it seems that convening the international Islamic Trade Fair is a positive step in this direction.

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However, the fair will not be sufficient—on its own—to alter the current trade process. Had it been able to achieve this on its own, positive steps would have been taken during the past four fairs and the same issue would not have been propounded during the fifth fair in Tehran. But unfortunately this did not happen, and even worse than this, current conditions do not paint a better picture of the future either. Nevertheless, understanding the need for an Islamic common market may help the Islamic countries carry out a more realistic assessment of their trade conditions; and possibly this understanding will ultimately create the necessary political will.

It is clear that trade in the Islamic world will not be able to progress smoothly and that it will need many sacrifices by all the Islamic countries. This is a responsibility that the vanguard countries in this process should shoulder so that gradually other Islamic countries too will be encouraged and will find trade within the Islamic world to be profitable. Of course this is something that will be opposed by the industrialized countries because their infiltration in the Islamic world will be affected.

Obligations of Iranian Diplomats Discussed

NC0108103694 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 25 Jul 94 pp 1, 16

[Editorial by Mohammad Sarafraz: "The Obligation of Diplomats in an Islamic System"]

[Text] 1. Definitely diplomats in all Islamic systems have duties that go beyond the conventional frameworks that are prevalent in the world. Striving for things such as the expansion of bilateral relations and so on are secondary to the main obligations of the representatives of the focal point of Islamic countries. There are many insinuations that our ambassadors should limit themselves to the diplomatic framework and act as the representative of ordinary governments and not a revolutionary system.

But it is the duty of our diplomats to emerge from this shell and to clarify and to explain to the world the culture and values that rule an Islamic system.

2. To achieve this goal, some changes should be made in the behavior and activities of our representatives so that their political efforts will be effective. Especially in their meetings with Europeans, criticism of the behavior and of the stances of the West should become a major factor.

Westerners, affected by Zionist propaganda, are confronting the Islamic Republic of Iran with three propaganda weapons—support for terrorism, the violation of human rights, and efforts to gain access to nuclear weapons.

A careful look shows that every so often they spark off a propaganda onslaught against one of these three pivots and then sit back. Following the G-7 summit in Naples, the current pivot of propaganda is Iran's support for terrorism. The explosion in Argentina showed that the enemies are ready to perpetrate any crime in order to defame the Islamic Republic and that for them there is no difference between Muslims, Christians, or Jews. But this propaganda weapon too will lose its effectiveness soon.

The duty that rests on the shoulders of our diplomats is to reveal the face of the enemy of the system in each of the three above-mentioned pivots. Westerners rank first in support for state and group terrorism—as in their support for Israel and the Monafeqin [hypocrites—reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization]. They rank first in the violation of human rights—as in Bosnia and so on; and they contradict themselves on the issue of nuclear weapons—considering only themselves and the Zionist regime to have the right to possess such weapons.

Our diplomats can argue these points with the representatives of the Western governments and they can also organize interviews and discussions on the level of the representatives of the countries involved.

3. We do not consider the system that rules the world to be a just system. The views of a very small number of countries that can be counted on the fingers of one hand are implemented vis-a-vis a silent majority of countries on the international scene. Thus, with the ending of the bipolar system in the world, intervention in the domestic affairs of countries, war, massacres, and injustice have all increased.

The ambassadors and the diplomatic representatives of the country have the obligation to reveal the face of the current world that dominating powers have created.

The current world system is based on the material interests of dominating powers in comparison with the system of the Islamic Republic which is based on spirituality and the slogan of justice. It is extremely significant to clarify the differences between these two systems. This does not mean that we will be creating enemies, since the enemy is the enemy and will not stop at anything.

The major problem of the dominating powers is the awakening of the Muslim and the oppressed nations and their ever-increasing inclination toward Islam and spirituality. Therefore, the Foreign Ministry should grant priority to expanding ties with those countries whose people feel an affinity toward Islam. Even many of our economic needs can be furnished from these countries. In short, looking to the East can replace looking to the West; and the strongest diplomats and those who are better acquainted with the cultural basis of the system should be assigned to Islamic countries.

4. It is extremely important to coordinate our activities outside the country. Why should we have ordinary or even unusual economic relations with countries that display the highest extent of political hostility toward us?

For example, what need is there for several trade offices with dozens of employees in London? This is at a time when our diplomatic cadre in Britain is extremely small in number.

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If there is no coordination among political, cultural, and economic relations, the system of the Islamic Republic will be harmed.

President Inaugurates Petrochemical Complex

NC0208070094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] The second phase of the immense Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni Petrochemical Complex was inaugurated yesterday in the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The annual output of the complex is 3.5 million tonnes, including 2 million tonnes of liquid gas, a half million tonnes of various types of plastic, and a half million tonnes of other petrochemical products. [figures as heard] The foreign exchange expenditures of the project amounted to $3 billion and its rial expenditures totaled approximately 520 billion rials. These amounts are expected to be recouped from the sale of the complex's products within five years. The value of the products to be manufactured by the complex has been estimated at about $1 billion per year.

Work on this immense project started in 1353 [year beginning 21 March 1974] with Japan's cooperation. After the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the Japanese experts ultimately left Iran after halting construction several times. Construction of the project was thus completely halted. During the imposed war, the complex suffered serious damage. Reconstruction began in 1368 [year beginning 21 March 1989] thanks to the efforts of Iranian experts. The first phase, with an annual output of 1 million tonnes of liquid gas, became operational in 1369.

After inaugurating the complex and taking a two-hour tour of the installation, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani gave an interview and discussed the significance of the complex.

[Begin recording] [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the almighty and merciful. I will go into more detail on the issue. Basically speaking, the petrochemical industry is the supreme industry of our century and it plays an extremely important role in society and in the country's economy. Thousands of products covering almost all aspects of human life are manufactured by this industry.

In our First Plan we very rightly emphasized petrochemistry along with the gas, oil, and several other industries. Fortunately we are today reaping the fruits of this, and one of these fruits is this immense complex.

According to reports by the petroleum minister and the official in charge of the petrochemical industry, we have a capacity of 10 million tonnes of petrochemical products. Of this quantity, 8 million tonnes have been manufactured and 2 million tonnes will be added to this figure next year in Arak, Tabriz, Khorasan, and other places, when the project will be completed. This is a considerable contribution to our economy. I think this will define the societal role of the thousands of industries that are subordinate to the petrochemical industry and that manufacture a variety of products for all aspects of life.

There are interesting points as far as this complex is concerned. The first thing that attracts one's attention is the high technical abilities of the Iranian experts. Frankly speaking, the immensity of the complex cannot be described in words, and figures do not reflect the facts very well either. When we say 3.5 million tonnes of petrochemical products, the people cannot easily understand all that lies behind this. It would be a good thing if plans were made for our people—those who are interested, like students, scholars, experts, and industrialists—and anyone else who is interested to see this immense complex and to see the hundreds of hectares of land where complicated modern industries have been installed to produce about 50 different products of large-scale and heavy proportions.

Managing such a complex is not an easy task. The important thing is that this complex was almost completely destroyed during the war. Nothing was left. During the war I came here several times and saw it. I felt truly sorry when I saw how the expensive equipment had been destroyed and crushed by the Iraqis. But today, wherever we went, we saw that everything has been reconstructed and that this complex has been transformed into an extremely lively, active, and interesting unit.

Here I would like to thank the Japanese. The Japanese approach was a truly noble one, although it would have been better if they had continued their cooperation—in which case we could have spent the money we spent here to develop other fields. But even the extent of the cooperation they extended after they parted and paid their share was a correct move with a positive outcome for us, for in this way this immense industry was placed solely at the disposal of our country. Although we could have relied on the Japanese were they here, they did not obstruct us by their absence, but rather helped the situation. However, the main gratitude goes to our own managers, our technical forces, our workers, our technicians, our engineers, and our directors, whose efforts have been outstanding.

The materials primarily used here are products that would have been wasted, much of it burned off and evaporated into thin air had this plant not existed. These materials are being transformed into products that are worth as much as gold. By rough calculations, we can understand the economic value of this plant. This is not a plant, but a large complex of immense plants. This complex operates in such a way that within a period of three or four years, we can recoup our entire investment. However, it is not merely an issue of returns, but also of the immense economic and social impact this complex will have on the country.

If we consider one of the major objectives of our revolution to be independence, then this complex and similar

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activities form the main pillar of this independence. In other words, with this plant in operation, the dependence of thousands of workshops, plants, and industrialists on the outside world is severed and they can find the necessary raw materials at home. We will have a powerful presence in the world as well. After all, we will export part of this output, and those industries that purchase raw materials from us will naturally have contact with us; that contact is valuable for us and it is a powerful presence for us in the world. This complex transforms materials that were being wasted into extremely valuable products. As far as employment is concerned, it will also be extremely effective.

Fortunately, the products manufactured by subordinate industries were offered a little bit earlier than this complex. In the First Plan, when we focused attention on the petrochemical industry, we also focused attention on subordinate industries. The people knew that these industries' products would soon be on the market. They rapidly welcomed the plan, and today there are a large number of plants in the country that have prepared themselves to make use of the complex and other similar plants; and with the confidence they feel in the complex's products, they can easily continue their activities, which will also be profitable. The value added to subordinate industries is very high.

As for Khuzestan, during the war Khuzestan suffered many blows. Many of its cities were destroyed and, frankly speaking, the people of Khuzestan suffered many losses. Therefore, they deserve compensation now. Immense projects have been planned for Khuzestan, one of which is this complex. We have immense projects such as dam construction and sugar beet cultivation. Many infrastructural activities are being carried out in this province. Such extensive investment is rare in other provinces. Of course, this province merits this because it has both rich resources and a large population and it also feeds the entire nation. Although these projects crystallize in Khuzestan, they actually belong to the entire country.

I think that by the end of the Second Plan, Khuzestan will be among the extremely advanced and developed provinces in the country because of these important infrastructural projects, one of which was officially inaugurated today. [end recording]

Deputies Comment on Second Development Plan

LD0108144594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] The Majles Commission for the Consolidation of Bills [Komisyon-e Talfiq] today continued its discussion of the bill for the country's second development plan. Our correspondent interviewed two of the commission's members. I now draw your attention to these interviews:

[Unidentified correspondent] In its session today, the Majles Commission for the Consolidation of Bills continued the task of examining the views put forward by various Majles commissions about the bill for the second development plan. During the session, clauses seven and eight of the bill put forward by the government were discussed. Mr. Bahonar, a member of the Consolidation Commission's presidium, said the following about the decisions made today:

[Begin Bahonar recording] Today we examined clauses seven and eight of the government bill. Clause seven concerns the removal of customs exemptions which existed throughout the first plan for some government bodies in relation to special investment programs—such as communications and energy and some other organizations. It has been suggested and foreseen in the second plan that we should remove these customs exemptions and, if organizations that use public funds need compensation to make up for this loss, we would put these funds at their disposal in the form of total expenditure [as heard] in order to avoid creating problems.

On the other hand, we wish to move toward openness. We want to create free competition under the second plan and to free government departments from customs exemptions. We want to direct all our customs policies to the support of domestic production, to regulate the goods market, to remove special exemptions, and to impose all policies through customs fees and commercial revenue—through the tariffs set by the Majles in the case of customs fees and by the government in the case of commercial revenue. This was approved.

The second part of the discussion, which was quite complicated, concerned clause eight, as proposed by the government. This concerned the level of foreign payments. On the whole, the Majles bills consolidation commission came to a number of conclusions. First, it was decided that our total debts should be reduced by 25 percent in the course of the second plan, that is, by the end of the plan our foreign debt should be reduced by 25 percent.

Second, our new obligations should be arranged in such a way that in future years we should be paying a maximum of 30 percent of our annual revenue to service our loans and it should not happen that, suddenly in one year, we are forced to devote the bulk of our revenue to repayments.

Then there is the question of also having a rubric for foreign exchange, because we want our foreign exchange to at free-market rates under the second plan. However, because of possible fluctuations in the market, there may still need to be some supervision over the allocation and provision of foreign exchange to government organizations. We have foreseen the establishment of a committee which can assist the government in this regard, consisting of cabinet members, a representative of the president—it will have its own make-up, with one or two Majles deputies acting as observers. It will regulate the foreign exchange market in the same way that the commodities market can be regulated. [end recording]

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Mr. Qashqavi, representing the foreign policy committee on the Commission on the Consolidation of Bills, said the following about the country's foreign policy during the second plan:

[Begin Qashqavi recording] Both with regard to the overall qualitative aims and the general direction and with regard to overall policies and implementational clauses of the plan, special attention has been paid to the question of foreign policy. The bulk of the activities of Iran's representative offices abroad, our diplomatic missions, our embassies, and all our executive organizations will be concentrated on establishing a positive trade balance between us and our foreign trade partners, on using the lever of economic ties to the advantage of political ties, and on trying to establish a balance between economic and political ties. These are among the issues that are mentioned in many places throughout the bill.

One important issue is that, in view of the growing level of non-oil exports and the need for greater investment, our embassies should play an important role in this area so that, God willing, our foreign policy will advance in keeping with the aims of the plan. [end recording]

Plan To Begin 21 Mar 1995

LD0208223894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Following the approval of the Procedure [Talfiq] Committee of the Islamic Consultative Majles, the year 1374 [starting 21 March 1995] has been designated as the start of the second economic, social, and cultural plan. Mr. Dori-Najafabadi, the deputy head of the Procedure Committee, said this in an interview with our correspondent today. [passage omitted]

Majles Commission Votes for Continued Subsidies

LD3107111294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] The joint Majles commission that is currently reviewing the second development plan has decided that subsidies for main commodities—including wheat, rice, oil, sugar, cubed sugar, and cheese—will be kept and paid for during the coming years of the plan at the same level as the per head subsidy provided during year 1372 [1983-84].

The decision will be discussed in the open sessions of the Majles when it meets to review the second development plan.

A member of the joint commission's management board announced this and gave further explanations. Our correspondent reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Abdollahi, member of the joint and budget and plan commission, also said: The commission's agenda included a discussion on subsidies, their means of payment, and their volume when it met recently. Following talks between government representatives and commission members, and in the light of the need to provide the people with the minimum nutritional requirements, it was decided that there will be no decrease in the payment of subsidies for six commodities—wheat, rice, oil, sugar, cubed sugar, and cheese.

Referring to the payment of subsidies for oil and energy products, he said: The commission has studied the relationship between subsidies and social justice as well as waste, and has decided that related organizations should continue to pay subsidies to electricity customers, but should impose a staged tax for higher users.

He also said the commission is currently studying the ways that subsidies are to be paid for oil products. The results will be announced later.

Official on Committment to Environmental Protection

LD0208135994 Tehran IRNA in English 1007 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Kerman, Aug. 2, IRNA—A senior official in Environment Protection Organization said that like other world countries Iran was seriously employing all means to protect the ozone layer. The organization's research deputy, Nasser Moharram Nezhad, said here Tuesday that on the basis of commitments to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), his organization has to clear the country from elements damaging the ozone layer up to the year 1996.

Moharram Nezhad further said that the discharge of the industrial wastes to the rivers has contributed a lot in the pollution of most of the rivers in Iran. He added that the industrial units should be located in places where their wastes would not damage natural resources and environment.

Construction of New Airports Announced

LD2907172994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] The minister of roads and transport announced that six national airports are being built in the cities of Ardebil, Yasuj, Shahr-e Kord, Zanjan, Arak, and Ilam, and a number of them will be ready for use.

Minister Torkan who was visiting the Shahrud airport announced the news and said: In some other cities, including here, airports are being constructed with the help of the private sector.

He then pointed out that the Tehran-Mashhad railway has its heaviest traffic at the Shahrud station and that the Tehran-Mashhad railway is being expanded to two tracks from both ends.

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MKO Suspect Nahvi Named Superiors

LD0208185694 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Dear viewers, as we informed you earlier in the news bulletin, Mehdi Nahvi, the agent responsible for placing the bomb in the shrine of Imam Rida, peace be upon him, today died of his injuries. Musavi-Nejad, the director of security of the Ministry of Intelligence, in an interview with the Central News Unit, announced: Following the arrest of Mehdi Nahvi, one of the main elements responsible for bombing the pure shrine of the eighth Imam, His Holiness Imam Rida, peace be upon him, and following his face-to-face meeting with the hypocrite [member of Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] Bahram Abbaszadeh, fortunately the main piece of the puzzle of this tragedy was discovered and the remaining vague points while Nahvi was at large were resolved. Further, the accused Abbaszadeh made more valuable confessions, which include the following acts of provocation by the MKO:

Abbaszadeh named his and hypocrite Nahvi's superiors in this terrorist act [Mashhad bombing] as Azra Alavi, Alireza Guyandeh, and Mahbubeh Jamshidi. He said: The teams responsible for the recent acts of terror and explosions were trained in the Abu Ghurayb military base, 30 km west of Baghdad. They entered the country via the Ilam border crossing point with the help of Iraq's intelligence organization.

Abbaszadeh also exposed a plan by the hypocrite organization to carry out an operation against a senior official in the south of the country, which had failed, and announced: Britain and Israel have promised political, propaganda, and financial assistance to the organization.

In conclusion, Musavi-Nejad said: Despite many efforts, Mehdi Nahvi died of his injuries this afternoon. Although his death has deprived us of certain information, his arrest completed the vital link in the chain of investigation. His arrest was the starting point for further discoveries.

Nahvi Buried

LD0308105094 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—The body of Mehdi Nahvi, member of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) who planted a bomb in the holy shrine of Imam Reza in Mashhad on 'Ashura, was identified by his family and buried after religious rituals performed here Tuesday. Nahvi was arrested Monday morning after a shoot-out with security forces and died Tuesday due to severe wounds.

Nahvi's mother, after seeing his son's body, said that "watching the film of bomb explosion in the holy shrine of Imam Reza, I prayed to God that the body of the culprit were chopped into pieces. When I realized that my own son was behind the crime, again I wished he would be arrested very soon and punished for his misdeed." She said that she expected to see the body of his son cut into pieces so that she could unburden herself of the grief stricken to her by watching the families of those martyred in the shrine's bomb explosion.

"Now that I see his body sound I am still ashamed of my son's crime before the great people of Iran," Nahvi's mother said. She added, "I swear by God that had I known Mehdi was a member of the terrorist MKO I would have informed security forces both to hinder the tragedy in the shrine and this sinister fate for Mehdi himself."

Nahvi's mother kept repeating the following sentences over the dead body of his son: "It serves him right. If he had not killed people, he would have not been in this state now. Mehdi, how will you answer God?" Addressing the reporters, she further said that she was not at all unhappy about her son's death. "He ought to have been cut into pieces to tranquilize me and the families of the shrine martyrs."

The terrorist's mother who was completely covering her face before the photographers and cameramen, said that her family which was a well-known one in the city of Qom had lost its dignity there adding that she did not want its shame to increase further by exposing her face.

'Ali-Reza Nahvi, the terrorist's elder brother, told the reporters, "Mehdi was an stigma for our family and we are ashamed of having such a brother." He added that Mehdi used to listen to voice of foreign radios at home but he never thought that this was because of his connection with the MKO. "Had I known that he had some connection with the MKO I would have delivered him to security forces."

On Mehdi's absence from home for a period of three months and ten days, he remarked that he had inquired about his brother from the Law Enforcement Forces stations several times. However, he said, he was not aware that he should tell the security forces about his brother's absconding from home.

Commenting on the terrorist MKO, 'Ali-Reza Nahvi noted that Western countries realized the corrupt and terrorist nature of the MKO better than anybody would, but supported it financially and politically because of grouplet's animosity with the Islamic Republic and the Iranian nation. The grouplet in return would employ anti-social elements as its members to carry out such heinous crimes, he added. 'Ali-Reza Nahvi further called on international bodies to bar the Western countries' financial and political aids to the grouplet so that it could not deceive young people and make them do criminal acts.

Mehdi's other brother, who desired anonymity, said that terrorist MKO used persons like Mehdi as tools to reach its criminal goals. He further said that Mehdi could be a

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lesson for the supporters of the grouplet and that such people should know that the way they were pursuing would terminate to the very same end. He added that Mehdi and others like him would have been eliminated by the MKO itself even if they had left the country.

Mehdi Nahvi's mother concluded by thanking security forces for arresting Nahvi which was a condolence for the families of Mashhad martyrs.

Tehran Notes Reasons for Oil Price Improvement

NC0308102894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 3 Aug 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] Oil sources report that the rise in crude oil prices that started last month is continuing and the benchmark price of U.S. oil has reached about $21 per barrel while the price of North Sea Brent oil has gone beyond $19 per barrel for the first time in the past 15 months.

Economic experts believe that the most important reason for the improvement in the oil market after two years of price reductions has been the Nigerian oil workers' strike, now in its fourth week. Despite oil exports, the halt in the domestic supply of oil and the delay in loading the Nigerian oil production ceiling, the country's 2-million barrel output is facing an unfavorable situation. Thus the oil market reacted to the news on Nigeria and the possibility of a reduction in Nigerian oil exports led to an increase in oil prices, especially amid fears of a worsening of the situation in Nigeria and the commencement of general strikes. Oil markets reacted immediately and increased oil demands.

Oil experts believe that while the concern felt by international markets on the halting of Nigeria's 1.5-million-barrel [as heard] output is the main reason for the rise in oil prices, other elements too have helped to strengthen the oil market. These elements, which have raised oil prices to their highest level in the past two years, are: OPEC members' observance of their production ceilings, an improvement in the world economy, high U.S. demand for crude oil, and an influx of investment in the oil market. A drop in the price of oil next to an increase in production expenditure in the industrialized countries have now made oil production in these countries uneconomical. Thus the dependence of Western countries, particularly the United States, on imported oil has increased. It seems the rise in oil prices will continue in the coming months.

Oil experts believe that the OPEC members' self-restraint in observing their production ceilings is an important element that will insure the OPEC benchmark price of $21 or even beyond that.

Nepal

Interim Prime Minister Barred From Elections

BK2707160094 Hong Kong AFP in English 1542 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Kathmandu, July 27 (AFP)—The ruling Nepali Congress party's central working committee has barred caretaker Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and two other members of the party high command from contesting elections in November, a party spokesman said.

The committee met for nearly three hours Wednesday as more than 6,000 party activists opposed to Koirala demanded his resignation. Koirala who arrived at the meeting about 45 minutes late had to be escorted by bodyguards, witnesses said.

Nepal's King Birendra on recommendations from Koirala dissolved the elected parliament on July 10 after the caretaker premier ran into fierce opposition over his socio-economic program.

The dissolution order, which came two years ahead of scheduled elections, was immediately followed by opposition street demonstrations.

Congress leaders also reviewed the current political situation in the country resulting from parliament's dissolution and discussed ways to achieve unity in the party, party spokesman Taranath Rana Bhatt told AFP.

NC Officials Support Koirala

BK2907145894 Hong Kong AFP in English 1443 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] Kathmandu, July 29 (AFP)—Nepali Congress (NC) party officials loyal to interim Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala met Friday to draw up a new election strategy and elect him as their new leader, a party source said.

More than 80 percent of members of the party's general council—including Koirala and current NC President Krishna Prasad Bhattarai—attended the conference which was held behind closed doors in Kathmandu.

NC General Secretary Mahendra Narayan Niddhi and 36 former dissident NC law-makers—who were instrumental in the parliamentary defeat which prompted Koirala to step down—did not attend the meeting.

A source said Niddhi and the 36 did not attend the conference for fear of being attacked by pro-Koirala delegates.

Koirala supporters said the delegates demanded that the caretaker prime minister contest the November mid-term polls.

An estimated 16,000 pro-Koirala NC activists were brought to Kathmandu from the premier's native Morang, 290 kilometers (181 miles away) to pledge their support for him, the sources said.

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The NC's central working committee on Wednesday barred caretaker Koirala, Bhattarai and Niddhi from contesting elections in November as part of a peace formula to unite the party ahead of the polls.

Koirala resigned as prime minister after a humiliating defeat in parliament of his government's annual plan on July 10.

Twenty-four hours later, on his advice, the king dissolved the House of Representatives, called mid-term polls and named Koirala as interim prime minister, triggering political chaos.

Sources have said Koirala may attempt an 11th-hour comeback before the elections, but still faced grave challenges from the left after neutralizing his opponents within the NC.

Six communist factions were which oppose the interim premier remaining in office until the polls, are preparing a large anti- Koirala rally in Kathmandu, a leftist source said.

Court Issues Notice on Parliament Dissolution

BK0108135294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] In Nepal, the Supreme Court today gave a show-cause notice to the government on a writ petition challenging the dissolution of parliament. The AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent reports that the government has been given time to file its reply by the 18th of this month. The petition will be taken up by a division bench on the 23d.

Pakistan

Official: Nuclear Program Will Not Be Curtailed

BK0308123294 Karachi DAWN in English 3 Aug 94 p 16

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 2: The Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Professor N.D. Khan on Tuesday categorically reiterated that Pakistan would not toll back its peaceful nuclear programme.

Addressing a Press conference here at the Foreign office, Mr Khan said that Pakistan would not accept any unilateral decision from anybody on the nuclear issue.

Pakistan had repeatedly pronounced in the past that it is ready to accept any equitable, and nondiscriminatory approach for the solution to the nuclear problem in South Asia.

Mr Khan said Islamabad had also conveyed its policy on the nuclear issue to all US diplomats, who visited Pakistan in the recent past.

"We have a firm, categorical and clear-cut policy on the issue of nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia," he said adding that Pakistan's programme was completely peaceful.

Referring to the on-going process of quiet diplomacy on the nuclear issue and other matters of regional security between the US and Pakistan, he said this was not something new and unusual.

He denied any secret deal on the issue between Pakistan and United States in the garb of quiet diplomacy and said: "Quiet diplomacy means that every thing is moving in a right direction."

When asked that if the deal with the US for supply of F-16 aircraft had been terminated, Mr Khan, who did not give a clear cut reply in this respect, said that it is Pakistan's right to ask the US to deliver the aircraft for which payment had already been made or otherwise return the money so that alternate options could be explored.

He said: "I personally feel that we should look into other options for the purchase of aircraft if the US does not give us the F-16s."

Pakistan had signed a 4.1 billion dollars deal with the United States in 1989 for the supply of highly advanced seventy-one F-16 aircraft which could not be delivered to the PAF after application of the Pressler Amendment on Pakistan in October 1990.

Despite payment of 658 million dollars so far by Islamabad, Lockheed, manufacturers of F-16s, had not yet supplied even a single aircraft out of total seventeen already manufactured and waiting for delivery.

US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, who visited Pakistan during second week of April this year had stated in a Press conference that "the issue of F-16s and nuclear non-proliferation are tied up together," a contention always rejected by Islamabad on the grounds that the F-16 deal had been signed commercially and that it had no link with the nuclear issue whatsoever.

Mr Khan also termed the Pressler law as unjust and said: "We have communicated our position on the amendment on several occasions in the past to the US officials."

To another question, he described the state of Pakistan-US relations as satisfactory. He, however, did not offer further comments in this connection.

Responding to a question about the Afghan crisis, he said Afghanistan was a sovereign state and "we want to promote a peaceful settlement of the problem in accordance to the wishes of the Afghan people without interfering in the internal affairs of that country."

"This is quite impossible if one expects from Pakistan that it should interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. We want to see a durable solution to the problem without any interference," he repeated.

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About the present government's foreign policy, he said the PPP had steered the country out of the international isolation adding that it was because of the People's Party's far-sighted policy that Pakistan was not working as an active member of the UN Security Council.

He said the Prime Minister would be visiting Russia sometime later this year. Ms Bhutto's visit to Russia will he of great importance and help give a new impetus to relations between the two countries.

Bhutto Supports Kashmiris, Rejects Third Option

BK0208150494 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 2 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said resolution of the Kashmir issue according to the UN resolutions is the only solution acceptable to Kashmiris and Pakistan. Addressing the joint session of the AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] Council and AJK Legislative Assembly in Muzaffarabad this morning, she clearly rejected the idea of so-called third option [independence of Kashmir] for the solution of the Kashmir issue. She said that she has come here to assure the Kashmiris of Pakistan's unswerving moral and political support for their just and valiant struggle. She said India has backed out from its commitment for holding free and fair plebiscite in Kashmir. The world community should play its role to pressurize India to honor its commitments. She said Pakistan raised the Kashmir issue at UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, and we were successful in internationalizing the issue and put India on the defensive. The winds of democracy are blowing the world over and the shackles of slavery are breaking. The people of Kashmir and Bosnia will also succeed to get their just right. The prime minister said the Kashmiri freedom fighters have rendered great sacrifices, and their subjugation will soon end.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto reiterated her government's resolve to continue political, diplomatic and moral support to the cause of Kashmir despite Indian threats. Addressing Kashmiri refugees near Muzaffarabad today she said India's bellicose attitude cannot cow down Pakistan because we have unflinching faith in Allah and will never refrain from sacrificing our lives for the cause of justice. She said despite using draconian methods, India will fail to suppress the Kashmiris' liberation movement—rather Kashmir will prove Vietnam for India. She called upon the United Nations to fulfill the responsibility toward the solution of the Kashmir problem. She said Pakistan has always supported the UN in Kuwait, Somalia and Bosnia and Pakistan will not let the world body back out after its commitment to ensure free and fair plebiscite in Kashmir. She said the valiant Kashmiri freedom fighters are in fact waging the heroic struggle in the name of Islam and Pakistan and the accession of Kashmir to Pakistan is a must for completion of the unfinished agenda of partition of the subcontinent. She observed the days are not far off when Kashmir will be liberated from the Indian occupation.

Sri Lanka

UNP Election Manifesto Discusses Charter Reform

BK0208140794 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 28 Jul 94 pp 1,16

[Text] Part One of the UNP [United National Party] manifesto deals with constitutional reform and national policy.

The section dealing with constitutional reform says:

Our present constitution was enacted in 1978 at the instance of the United National Party. It introduced two major constitutional changes which were considered useful to the nation. The first was the executive presidential system. The other was the system of proportional representation in parliament. Experience has shown that on the whole both these new systems have been beneficial.

Nevertheless, the government considered it useful to appoint a select committee of parliament on the constitution in August 1993, in order to ascertain whether any modifications were considered necessary in the light of fifteen years experience of working of the system.

The select committee was representative of all parties in parliament. It had not concluded its deliberations at the time of the dissolution of parliament. We intend reviving and continuing this select committee in the next parliament.

The select committee will consider the different points of view put forward and suggest any modifications or variations which are considered to be necessary both for the executive presidency and proportional representation. We shall adopt the recommendations of the select committee.

A review of the effectiveness of the executive presidency as a political and administrative system establishes that it has been of undoubted benefit to the people. This form of government has accelerated and placed on a firm footing the economic and social development of Sri Lanka since 1977. It has also created political stability. The UNP therefore advocates the continuance of this system, subject to any modifications suggested by the select committee referred to above.

In order to establish on a firm footing the far reaching and varied economic reforms introduced by the UNP from and after 1977, it became necessary to appoint a number of cabinet ministers, project ministers and state ministers in charge of various sectors to ensure supervision and proper implementation of these reforms. Now that these have been largely achieved, it is intended to rearrange and rationalise the subjects and functions of the ministries, which will result in a substantial reduction in their number in the next parliament.

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The general consensus is that the system of proportional representation in parliament introduced by the United National Party and by which system the last parliament was elected, should be continued. The composition of parliament determined by this system of voting represents more fairly the overall intention of the country's voters as to the strength they desire each party to have in parliament. The system is also [considered] fairer by the minority ethnic and religious groups.

However, we recognise the fact that electors suffer the disadvantage of not having a member of parliament who is directly responsible to represent and look after the interests of a particular area. Where a candidate was elected to represent a particular constituency or electorate, electors were in a better position to have their civic needs met and grievances addressed. The district system of representation lacks this practical advantage to electors.

We therefore propose to modify the present system by combining the former electoral or constituency system with proportional representation. Such a combined system will have the advantage of electing a parliament which reflects the overall voting pattern of the country (i.e. proportional representation); it also has the advantage of having representatives chosen by the people of each electorate to represent each electorate.

The total number of members of parliament will not be increased. But since the number of members elected on proportional representation will be reduced in this new combined system, the number of preferences given to each voter could also be reduced. This will help to simplify voting.

We appointed a commission to investigate and report on the causes of youth unrest and to recommend measures to eliminate them. Several of the recommendations made by this commission to advance the prospects of youth have already been implemented.

In 1990 we amended the law regulating elections to local authorities (i.e. municipal councils, urban councils and pradeshiya sabhas [provincial councils]) so as to enable youth representation at the grassroots level of government. The law made it compulsory for the nomination list of any party or independent group to include at least forty per cent of candidates between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five years. In consequence, youth has found representation in the local authorities elected since 1991.

We propose to enhance youth representation in parliament by introducing the necessary constitutional amendments to make provision for a prescribed percentage of candidates nominated for elections to parliament to be of the age group eighteen to thirty-five years. This will then grant youth the opportunity of participating in policy making and legislation at the highest level.

Parliamentary procedures will be remodelled in a manner that will enable the opposition itself to participate in government. This will strengthen parliament. The establishment of a second or upper chamber of parliament will also be considered if there is consensus that such a body will be of benefit. If such is considered necessary, it could be structured so as to enable the provincial councils to have representation in it, thereby giving them a voice at the centre. These matters will also be considered by the Select Committee of Parliament on the Constitution.

UNP Election Manifesto Explains Northeast Policy

BK0208140994 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 29 Jul 94 pp 1,14

[Text] The UNP [United National Party] manifesto spells out its policy on the North and East, on devolution of power, law enforcement and the police.

The relevant portions read as follows:

It is the firm view of the government that a political solution must be found to the north-east problem. The government has demonstrated this position in no uncertain terms. You are aware of the initiatives taken by the government in summoning the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] for talks, the initiatives taken by the All Party Conference and the initiative taken by the All Party Parliamentary Select Committee.

We are of the view that any political solution reached must be endorsed by the people. Further, the question of the merger must be decided by referendum. This can be only achieved in a society where citizens can exercise their franchise, without fear or intimidation. We have reiterated our appeal to the LTTE to enter the democratic process and this appeal remains.

Until a fair and just political solution acceptable to all parties concerned is reached the government is charged with the responsibility of ensuring the security and well-being of the people in these areas. This responsibility is being carried out by our heroic soldiers and police officers.

The government is quite conscious of the sufferings faced by the people, especially in the north, because of the dictatorial attitude and atrocities committed by the LTTE. We have taken every step to ensure that the civil administration in the north is kept operative and the people are supplied with the basic necessities. Indeed, it speaks of the government's care and concern for the people.

It is our view that the political solution should not be detrimental to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. We reject the demand for permanent merger of the northern and eastern provinces or treating both those provinces as one on communal grounds. It is our position that the whole of Sri Lanka is the homeland of all the communities inhabiting her and we also oppose the redemarcation of the country.

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We support the broadest form of devolution, subject to land ownership and land use policy, defence, maintenance of law and order, administration and control of all harbours and airports continuing under the purview of the government.

Provincial councils provide an opportunity for the people of the provinces to decide on all development and service projects, and to implement them through the provincial councils which are elected by them.

Action will be taken to further improve the local government system reintroduced in 1979, where people were given the opportunity to elect their local representatives directly. We will enhance the administration to make it an effective instrument of the government policy for the full development of the nation.

We will devolve more power, authority and resources to provincial and divisional units for meaningful decentralisation, and encourage the establishment of a National-Provincial-Divisional policy dialogue to meet the needs and aspirations of the people. We will continue to encourage people's democratic participation in matters of public importance as citizens, members of local authorities, special interest groups and non-governmental organisations.

The decentralisation of administration effected after 1977, where the role of the government agents confined to 25 districts was expanded to 267 divisional secretariats, will be further strengthened to fully implement the government's objective of bringing the administration to the doorstep of the citizens.

Effective law enforcement is essential for stability and progress. It is essential that the public reposes the highest confidence in the integrity, impartiality and efficiency of the police. In order to further strengthen the independence of the police, political interference, in the functioning of the police force will not be tolerated. Stern action will be taken against any politician attempting to interfere or obstruct the police in any way. The police force will also be strengthened by encouraging the recruitment of officers with a wide diversity of educational backgrounds.

Editorial Decries Difficult Conditions in North

BK3107094794 Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil 22 Jul 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Emergency Laws"]

[Text] In the past, it has been customary to exploit rules and regulations to the desired level and then give justifications for doing so. This is not new.

In the name of rules only, human rights have been violated and inhuman acts committed. This has been pointed out now and then by human rights organizations and those who give consideration to human values.

Emergency laws have regularly been renewed every month for the past five years. Under the pretext of emergency law, several essential items have also been banned. Although emergency regulations are not in force presently, security forces do not permit people to take essential goods to the north.

Under emergency laws, 43 items are prohibited in the north, including cloth used for medical purposes, preventive medicines, and even camphor.

Tamil political circles have pointed out that the security forces are committing an inhuman act by continuing to ban such items when no emergency regulations are in force.

The northern people expect the difficulties they have encountered in the supply of food and other essential items during the past five years to be eased against the backdrop of elections. However, a situation similar to the one where a priest blocks a wish even though the deity grants it to its devotee persists. The northern people decry that lifting the emergency regulations is a mere deception.

Meanwhile, at a press conference held the day before yesterday, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe said that essential services and rehabilitation activities would not, in any way, be affected.

It is essential that rehabilitation work go on uninterrupted. The Tamil and Muslim people affected by the emergency situation in the country are living with total dependence on rehabilitation measures only.

The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front has also appealed to the president to lift the ban on essential goods to the north.

Unfortunately, this time the northern people are deprived of the usual interest in people displayed by political parties during elections. It seems that the absence of major political parties from the election scenario in the north may also be a reason for this.

Those at the helm of affairs should realize that the appeal of northerners for permission to take essential goods to their localities is not made with commercial motives, but to meet daily food requirements only.

It will be useful if all people concerned bear in mind that there is no meaning in verbal rhetoric about democracy, brotherhood, and peace during elections alone.

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